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VOLUME 29, NO. 14 FREE MARCH 26, 1999

Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy was at Niagara College's Glendale campus on March 19 to speak to students and answer their questions on a range of foreign affairs issues.
Photo by Sean Coffey

Budget surplus at $1.2m

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Niagara College is planning for the 1998-99 fiscal year to be a successful one.

The college's board of governors has approved the college's 1999-2000 operating budget. The college plans an operating surplus for 1998-99 of $320,303 and an accumulated surplus of $1.24 million.

The operating budget for 1998-99, approved by the board in March 1998, planned for an operating surplus of $202,695, and an accumulated surplus of $27,986.

This was based on an anticipated accumulated deficit of $174,709 for the fiscal year ending March 31,1998.

The college's operating results were much greater than expected for 1997-98 leaving them with an accumulated surplus of $924,313.

The board approved a strategy to have the college operating in a surplus position of about $500,000 beginning in 1990-2000.

However, the college was able to eliminate the accumulated deficit at the end of the 1997-98 fiscal year. The accumulated surplus is planned to be at $1.24 million.

In determining the operating budget, the college looks to historical data for activity patterns in its major revenue generating activities.

The projected enrolment for full-time post-secondary programs for 1998-99 is 5,065. In comparison, the enrolment for 1997-98 was 5,250 and for 1996-97 it was 5,157.

The decline in enrolments for 1998-99 are due to planned changes such as the termination of the Nursing program and cuts to January start programming. The latter was done to relieve pressure on the college's facilities during renovations and moves over the summer of 1998.

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Axworthy talks security

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — Dismembered children and terrorist victims are just part of what Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister has to deal with.

Lloyd Axworthy addressed about 150 students and dignitaries at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Friday, March 19.

Axworthy says he didn't want to get too philosophical because in the world he's in, it's the practice that counts and not the theory.

"One thing I've learned, over the past three years I've been the foreign minister, is just how geological we are. The shifts that are going on are massive. The underlying plates of the world are crashing together to the point, there is no clear compass."

He says there is no fixed navigation point. "We are all basically finding and searching our ways."

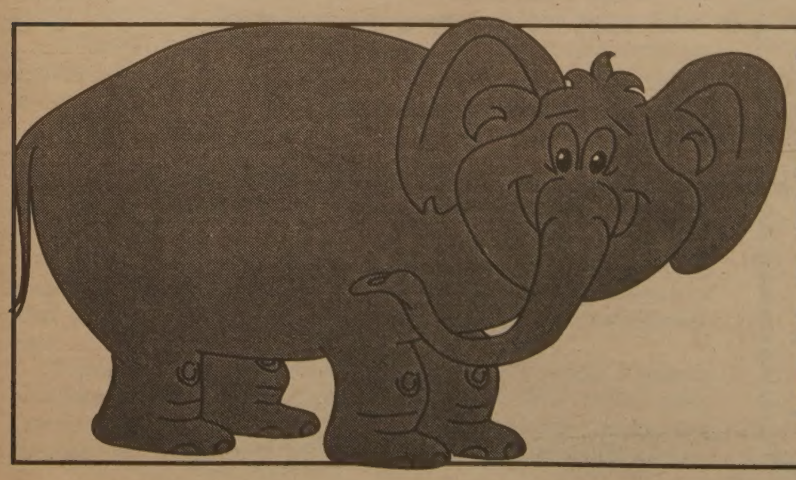
As Canadians, "who we are, what we are and what we will become" are defined by what is done internationally. He says foreign ministers are responsible for about 20 million trips annually by Canadians, including students, business people and tourists.

"We are probably the most travelled people in the world," says Axworthy, adding per capita, Canadians are more international than virtually any other country.

He says more than 40 per cent of Canada's economic growth is generated by what is sold abroad and imported.

"We are probably like a prototype of the 21st Century country, where we are totally open," says Axworthy. "That's how we make our living, that's how we define who we are. That's why it's very important, because while we tend to focus on domestic issues or worry about our pension plan, employment rates, and highway programs and all that's very crucial, but the reality is so much of what we are, what we are becoming is shaped by the world around us."

Continued on page 6



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CHRYSLER CANADA

Eye On Niagara

Students' choice of college celebrated

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

Did you feel appreciated?

The third annual Student Appreciation Day was held at all Niagara College campuses on March 17.

Brigitte Chiki, director of student services, says the day, first celebrated in 1995, was brought "back on track" this year after a two-year absence.

Donna Cunningham, director of health and community studies division, Chiki says, made the suggestion after a "similar event" at D'Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y.

Cunningham says the "initial thought" came from Steven Collins, Paramedic program professor, who was doing his masters in nursing there.

Chiki says the college "immediately embraced the idea."

The day is intended to show the students Niagara College appreciates their choice to attend the post-secondary institution.

There were many events held at all the campuses including an egg hunt.

At the Welland campus, there were 90 eggs hidden in the common areas. At the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, there were 55 eggs and at the Maid of the Mist Centre (MMC), in Niagara Falls, there were 25 eggs.

The eggs were in a wide variety of colours. If students found a green egg, they received a St. Patrick's Day bingo ticket as a bonus prize. There were also raffles and draws to keep students busy.

Gerry Poirier, 23, a first-year Computer Technology program student from Welland, says the day was "fun."

"I've been going over hell's half-acre filling out ballots."

Laura Winger, 22, a first-year Electronics Engineering Technician program student from Welland, says the day was fun.

"It's been fun going around to all the offices and seeing what goodies they have."

Costumed visitors at the campuses were Elmo, Tigger and Pumba.

At the President's Office, at the Welland campus, a draw was held to win a lunch with President Dan Patterson, along with two friends, at M.T. Bellies in Welland.

The students munched on donuts and enjoyed free coffee.

In the Marketing and Communications Department, a draw was held to win a Niagara duffel bag filled with extra prizes.

The Continuing Education department gave out popcorn.

At the gymnasium in the Mackenzie building, there was a volleyball serving contest, a hockey slapshot contest and a three-point basketball contest.

The Foundation Studies Division had a draw to win a T-shirt, beer stein and pizza coupons.

Other pizza coupons given out were from the Pizza Pizza mascot Dough Boy near the Donut Diner. He gave out 50 per cent off coupons for large and extra large pizzas.

The Info Centre had a draw for several prizes. First prize was a goodie basket, along with Tim Hortons coupons and McDonald's gift certificates.

In the Learning Resource Centre at the Welland campus, there were five prizes to be won and no fines were given on late books returned.

The Human Resources Department gave out 80, $1 Tim Hortons gift certificates, which can't be used at the on-campus outlet.

Green condoms were available at the Health Centres, except at Welland campus where they were available at the Counselling Services Office.

At the After Hours Pub at Welland campus, Definitely Maybe, a tribute band to Oasis, gave a noon performance and at Alexander Davidson's Student Centre, at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the band Black Fly performed.

The Ventures Division, at Glendale campus, gave away cookies and green Kool Aid and the Environmental, Horticulture and Agribusiness Department had green punch, goodies, Irish music and plant giveaways.

At MMC there were draws for gift certificates for free lunches at the Kerrio Room, for a guaranteed spot in an elective of the student's choice for the next fall term and one for a reserved parking space for the next academic year for a student, who has a parking permit this term.

Chiki says prizes for the day were funded by the departments' staff. "It came out of the personal pockets and ideas and energy of staff."

The bigger events, like bands at the student centres and costumed visitors, "those were paid for through a college fund."

Another perk, for people who parked without a parking permit, unless in a fire zone, weren't ticketed.

She says "from all accounts, it was a wonderful day."

Chiki received e-mails from several people.

Dan Patterson, Niagara College president, wrote: "From all reports it was a great success. Students were very pleased with all the activities, food and fun."

Donna Putman, a counsellor at MMC, wrote: "Well things are terrific at MMC!!! Once again the egg hunt is a huge success, with students finding corners of the centre they did not know existed. Lots of food, fun and appreciation everywhere."

Mike Bainbridge, 24, of Welland, a second-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program student, tickles Elmo at the After Hours Pub on Student Appreciation Day last week.
Photo by Sean Coffey

New programs next year

Continued from page 1

The projected revenue from International Education for 1998-99 is $1.42 million. This is up from the two previous years when revenues were $1.16 million for 1997-98 and $962,819 for 1996-97.

The growth has seen some job creation as well.

The college has increased its staffing by 17 full-time positions. The budget states 10 of these are revenue driven and will fully recover their costs while the remaining seven are in response to growth in programs and improvements in services.

On the topic of growth, some new programs have been approved for the 1999-2000 academic year.

• A Hotel and Management Systems (Post-graduate) program will start at the Maid of the Mist Centre at the Niagara Falls campus. This program will be laptop-based and prepare graduates for career opportunities in the hotel management field.

• A Tourism Development (Post-graduate) program will prepare students for employment in the tourism field.

• Pending approval is a new two-year International Business program to run at the School of Business and Entrepreneurship at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

• A new post-graduate Professional Screenwriting program will start at the School of Media and Design at the Welland campus.

• The Skill Centre for Motive Power Training, at the Welland campus, will introduce two new post-secondary programs: an Automotive Service Technician — Autobody program and an Automotive Service Technician — Motive Power program.

In other revenue generating areas, on Feb. 18, the board approved a 10-per-cent increase in post-secondary tuitions.

On March 18, it approved an increase in Dental Hygiene and Dental Assistant program tuitions, a 10-per-cent increase in tuition short programs and a 10-per-cent increase in co-op fees (see related story).

Looking ahead, the projected operating results for 1999-2000 plan for total revenues of $50.18 million and total expenditures of $49.84 million. This leaves an excess of revenues over expenditures of $337,059.

The college's planned surplus as of March 31 is $1.24 million, which will result in a budget surplus as of March 31, 2000 of $1.58 million.

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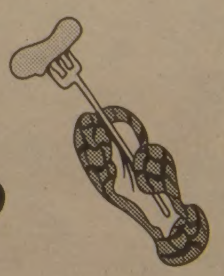


SAC Elections

The New Student Administrative Council, 1999/2000

Welland Campus:
President:
Jennifer Beatty

Vice-President, Campus Affairs:
Patricia Pichette

Vice President, Campus Events:
Brian Durocher (Acclaimed)

Glendale Campus:
President:
Everett Wright (Acclaimed)

Vice-President, Campus Affairs:
Tanya Guthrie (Acclaimed)

Vice-President, Campus Events:
Jennifer Gaboury

Maid of the Mist Centre:
President:
Andrea Fenning

Vice-President, Campus Affairs:
Stefan Struk (Acclaimed)

Vice-President, Campus Events:
Richard Denham

Beatty, Fenning, Wright new SAC presidents

Fenning, 24, of St. Catharines gets 80 out of 95 votes

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Andrea Fenning, a first year tourism student, won by a landslide with 80 out of 95 votes, against Jeremy Harvey, for president at the Maid of the Mist Centre (MMC), Niagara Falls

She is upset about the voting turn out because many students didn't bring their student identification with them and were not allowed to vote, Fenning says.

'Approachable and friendly' — Andrea Fenning

"If the students knew their student number and had another piece of identification they should have been allowed to vote."

The aprentices were not allowed to vote either but they are still involved in SAC events and they should have been allowed to vote, says Fenning.

Fenning, 24, of St. Catharines, says she works "best under pressure."

"Approachable and friendly" are the qualities Fenning says she has that will make her a good president. She says she has her "culinary and baking papers already," so she knows many of the faculty which will help her.

"The Maid of the Mist campus has a population of 550 students and less than 100 students voted."

She says she "feels very good about winning the election." It was a "big relief." It's "nice to know I have a lot of friends" at MMC and it is "really supporting."

Fenning says she wants to make herself "more readily available" to students and she wants students to know that they can "approach her with ideas for events."

She is going to "try my best to balance both" her grades and SAC and she will put "100 per cent" into SAC when she can.

Next year Fenning says she hopes to hold events such as rock climbing, leisure tag, and fun day in the snow.

"I think it is going to be a fun year," says Fenning.

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Everett Wright, the acclaimed president at the Glendale campus, Niagara-on-the-Lake, says, he would have liked some competition

"I wish someone would've ran against me." It is more "fun" that way, says Wright.

Wright, 25, of Welland, is in his second year in Business Administration and Accounting Co-op.

Wright was a student representative in his first year at Niagara and vice-president of campus affairs this year.

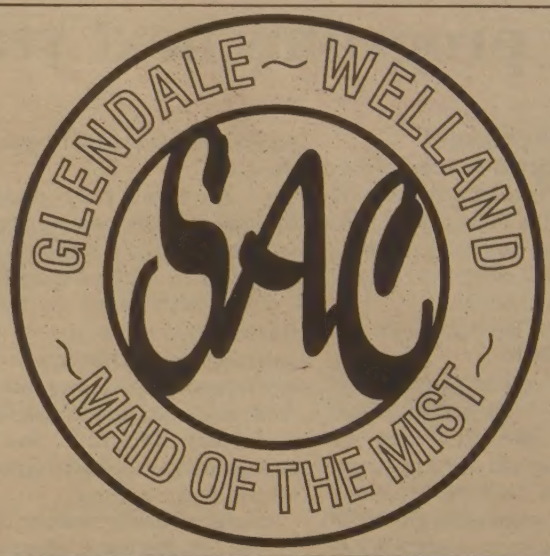
He says he wants to get more students involved in SAC this year.

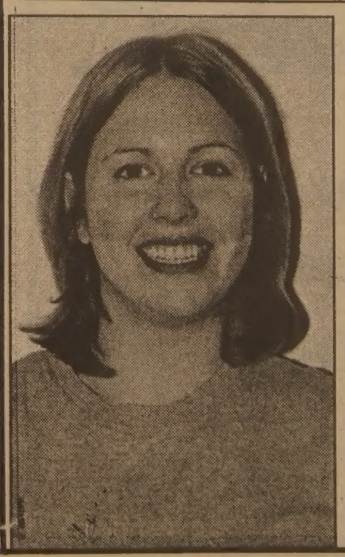
"I hope to get more people involved." During first semester last year student involvement was "bad." Second semester, more people seemed "interested," says Wright.

"First priority is grades and second is SAC." Wright says he will have more time this year than last because he has two days off a week.

"Next year will be more equal."

Wright is "not too sure" what he is planning for next year but his "biggest goal is greater student involvement."





Beatty, 22, received 61 votes

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

The results are in.

Jennifer Beatty, 22, of Port Perry, Ont., is the new Student Administrative Council (SAC) president for Niagara College's Welland campus.

She won the race against Lee Whitehead, a second-year Journalism-Print program student, and Daniel MacLean, a first-year student in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program, getting 61 out of 105 votes.

Beatty is a first-year Educational Resources and Special Needs program student.

Whitehead got 38 votes, while MacLean got six votes.

Beatty says she is "very pleased" with the results and looks forward to making some changes.

"My biggest part in all of this is to make student council more visible. I don't think that many people are aware of what is going on. That really came out with all the people that showed up."

She says she would like to have a frosh week for the first-year students.

"I would really like to get involved with that. When I went to university it was great, frosh felt so welcome. This year we only had one day to meet people."

Beatty says she is "very disappointed" with the number of students who voted.

"People just don't care. One hundred and five people out of such a large population at the school is very disappointing. Hopefully, making it more visible will help next year and make people want to vote."

Beatty's experience includes being school president in her last year of high school as well as being head of the dance committee for two years.

She says she will be a "good president" because she has good time management skills and she is "very enthusiastic." She says this will help her balance time between her SAC duties and her classes.

"Obviously my grades are important to me. With this position, I know it is important for me to keep track of what is going on with SAC. Hopefully, I can find a good balance between the two."

Open Wide

Teacher-student enjoys lifelong learning

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

It's the combination of family support, a love of the profession, and a desire for lifelong learning that motivates Carol Barr-Overholt, co-ordinator of the Dental Hygiene and Dental Assistant programs at Niagara College.

Barr-Overholt, 40, was born in Great Britain, but moved to St. Catharines as a child.

She says she first became interested in the dental profession as a teenager, when she met a dental hygienist who was not only great at what she did, but also loved her job.

"I saw her as an excellent role model," says Barr-Overholt. "I wanted to do what she did."

Barr-Overholt attended Niagara College's Dental Assistant program after high school unaware one day she would be its co-ordinator.

In fact, she says, of the eight full-time staff members in the dental program, six are Niagara College graduates. "That's a great thing for the students to see."

After completing Niagara's Dental Assistant program, Barr-Overholt attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She graduated from the Dental Hygiene program in 1982, when she returned to practice in the St. Catharines area.

Working as a hygienist/assistant in a dental office was something Barr-Overholt says she loved doing.

Aside from her present work with students in the college's dental clinic, she returns to do temporary jobs in dental offices during the summer.

Barr-Overholt began teaching at Niagara part-time in 1986 while continuing to work in her field. She joined the full-time faculty in 1992, and says she loves teaching because it combines the best of clinical dental experience and interaction with the students.

What she enjoys most, says Barr-Overholt, is "seeing the students build their skill levels (and) watching them become more confident and self-assured."

Besides her teaching profession, Barr-Overholt says she's also very committed to lifelong learning. Throughout her career, she has continued to take courses. She recently finished her Bachelor of Adult Education degree from Brock University in St. Catharines, and will be going for her master's degree in bio-ethics.

It's the support of her family, she says, that allows her to play so many different roles. Doug, her husband of 15 years, is "very supportive," she says.

"He encourages me, so I'm really lucky in that way." Even if it's doing simple things like housework or making dinner, Barr-Overholt insists she wouldn't be able to take on all she does without the support of her husband. "It makes it a whole lot easier when someone at home is pulling for you."

Carol Barr-Overholt, co-ordinator of the Dental Hygiene and Dental Assistant programs at Niagara College, says she credits the support of her family for helping her continue her own education.
Photo by Sara DeTamble

In addition to being a teacher, a student and a wife, Barr-Overholt is a mother. Her children, Alison, nine, and Cameron, 13, "speak very proudly that their mom's a college teacher," she says. They come up regularly to see the clinic, and will, in fact, be going through as clients.

In the future, Barr-Overholt says she hopes to continue down the path she's been travelling. She hopes to see the expansion of Niagara's dental clinic, as well as continue her own education.

Tuition increase in 2000

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Strong job opportunities and costly programming are driving tuition costs up in certain Niagara College programs.

The college's board of governors has approved tuition fee increases for the Dental Hygiene and Dental Assistant programs as well as increases in co-op and short programs.

Students entering year two of the Dental Hygiene program will face a 20 per cent increase in tuition over 1998/99 levels. New enrolments for 1999/00 will pay $2,250 per term or $4,500 for one year.

Dental Assistant program students will see a 10 per cent increase in tuition fees for the 1999/00 academic year.

The report to the board states the increase will bring the Dental Hygiene program costs into line with the lower end of costs in comparison to other colleges in southwestern Ontario. The increased tuition will help to sustain the programs' financial footing, said the report.

The document stated the college has researched comparative program fees from other colleges. For colleges serving Toronto and southwestern Ontario the present tuition charges for Dental Hygiene range from $6,300 to $7,200 per year.

The cost of Dental Assistant programs are much lower.

Tuition fees for these programs range from $1,500 to $2,400 with varying additional fees. The report said Niagara College has one of the higher-priced Dental Assistant programs.

The recent figures in the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data for 1998 show 90 per cent of Dental Hygiene students were employed within six months of graduation.

The data indicated 93 per cent of grads were satisfied with the usefulness of their education and 100 per cent of employers were satisfied with the educational preparation of their graduate employees.

The high rate of pay in these fields supports an increase in tuition. Dental hygienists have starting salaries ranging from $20 to $25 a hour, and dental assistant salaries range from $10 to $15 an hour.

In other college divisions, tuition for short programs such as welding and call centre operations will see an increase of 10 per cent from 1998/99 levels.

The report stated these programs are in high demand and often are costly to offer.

Co-op fees are being increased as well. The college offers 17 programs with a formal co-op placement component. More than 1,700 students are enrolled.

The co-op fees are used to provide the services necessary for developing co-op opportunities. In 1998 the board approved a 10 per cent increase in co-op fees to keep them consistent with the increase in tuition.

The co-op fee now stands at $360, which is the average within the system, but falls short of the $428 charged at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

The increase will see co-op students paying $396 in 1999/00, a $36 increase from 1998/99.

"The co-op fee increases are definitely good," said Don Woodruff, a third year Business Administration — Operations Management (Co-op) program student.

Woodruff, the student representative on the board, said the increase will allow the co-op organizers at the college to go directly to employers. He adds there isn't enough current funding for them to do this.

"It allows the co-op coordinators to function in a better capacity."

Woodruff said co-ops are important as they give students a greater advantage in getting employment.

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Politics

Axworthy speaks of landmine victims

'She lost her arms up to her shoulders'

Continued from page 1

International relations are traditional and conservative in the sense it focuses on the security of nations.

"Increasingly, for us as Canadians, it is not the security of nations but the security of individuals."

He says there are more than 30 or 40 conflicts around the world, more than any other time in history. He says they're not the traditional wars with armies crossing boundaries, but rather vigilantes, warlords and factions.

He says the consequence for people has been "horrendous" and adds there were only five per cent civilian casualties during the "Great" war. In today's wars, there are 90 per cent civilian casualties.

"These are not professional soldiers but the most vulnerable of victims, often women and children."

He says many victims of landmines are children who are often walking along the road when something catches their interest. He says they walk off the "beaten path" and find their life destroyed by a landmine.

"I can recall vividly, a wrenching experience, meeting a 12-year-old girl in a rehabilitation centre we are helping support and finance. She lost her arm up to the socket (shoulder) and I started to ask her about it. She was clearly in a state of trauma. She said she had been out in her father's farm field in southern Lebanon and saw a brightly coloured object that was no bigger than the size of her hand. Shaped like a butterfly, brightly coloured orange and red, she thought it was a toy. She picked it up and the heat from the palm of her hand detonated the device," he recounted, shaken momentarily by the memory.

He told a story about what he refers to as the "ugly, dark side of the world." He says while in west Africa a few weeks ago, he met with a group of non-government officials in Sierra Leone. They relayed to him that during the fighting in Freetown, the warlord faction came out of the hills to take over the city.

'That's the kind of conflict . . . today.'

They put a human shield of children, about five deep, in front of them to confuse the peacekeepers who were to maintain stability. He says the faction then started marching on the children and firing over their heads. He says the children who tried to run away or escape had their arms chopped off.

"That's the kind of conflict going on around the world today."

He says people have become indifferent to the basic integrity of human life and the rights of individuals and civilians.

"It's not just in war-torn, ravaged parts of the world. As Canadians, we face it in our own country because the way the global system now works, whether through international drug trafficking, crime or terrorism." He adds, "We're all touched, we're all affected. We can't escape, there are no walls to put around our own country."

He says during his first two months as foreign minister, he dealt with the case of a young woman from Montreal who was blown up by a terrorist bomb in a subway in Paris; a Canadian businessman in Mozambique who was blown up by terrorists; a young nurse from western Canada who was "chopped" to death in Chechnya while working for the Red Cross; and an ambassador who was kidnapped and held hostage in Peru.

"A day doesn't go by, where in some part of the world, Canadians are not affected by that kind of total lawlessness taking place."

He says our own borders are affected by drug trafficking and that 60 per cent of the heroin that comes to our shores, comes from the Golden Triangle around Burma.

He says people ask him why he's in southeast Asia worrying about what's going on in Thailand or Burma? He tells them the reason is because that's where the drugs are coming from.

"That's where our kids on city streets, including my own city of Winnipeg, are getting it from."

He says one of the things the government is trying to do is rally all countries in the Western Hemisphere to agree to a series of actions to stop drugs from being produced.

As for international trade, he says, "You can't have a global international trading system when there's no rule of law." He says if instability, conflict and violence take place, the system quickly breaks down.

Southern Asia was going through a period of prosperity and financial growth before the financial crisis hit. "Because of the breakdown in the international financial system, a series of mistakes in certain parts of the government in that area, all of a sudden you have an incredible welling up of turmoil."

He says six governments changed in three months in Southern Asia; in Indonesia, 50 million of the 100 million people live in poverty.

He says that undermines the economic trade system relied upon, and has an enormous impact on the country's people.

"Conflicts are based upon economic climate, ethnicity or religion. So now there is a whole series of underlying tensions creating an enormous sense of uncertainty for people in that region."

He says re-focusing our own foreign policy has been to breakaway from traditional military security to individual security.

More than 500,000 children around the world are kidnapped, abused, manipulated and exploited. He says most of them are trained to become soldiers. Protection of those children, he says, becomes our responsibility along with the rest of the world.

He says his "proudest" moment was last month, when on behalf of Canada, he presided as president of the United Nations' Security Council of 15 countries, including the five most powerful in the world. He got them to agree that, for the first time, the Security Council would begin looking at how to protect civilians, children and humanitarian aid workers.

On March 1, the landmine use, transport, production and export was banned under international law. He says although countries like the United States, Russia and China have not signed the treaty, they are now abiding by the treaty's terms.

Axworthy was first elected to Parliament in May 1979 and represents the riding of Winnipeg South Centre. He was appointed to Cabinet as minister of employment and immigration from 1980 to 1983. He also served as minister responsible for the status of women, 1980-82, and as minister of transport, 1983-84.

Axworthy was appointed minister of foreign affairs in 1996 and served as minister of human resources development and minister of western economic diversification from November 1993 until January 1996. During that time, he served on the social development policy and economic development policy committees of Cabinet and retains that membership.

Following re-election in 1984, he served as official opposition critic for Regional and Industrial Expansion and the Canadian Wheat Board, and as trade critic and deputy critic for external affairs, 1985-88.

In February 1989, he was appointed Liberal critic for trade and chairman of both the Liberal trade task force and the Liberal caucus economic policy Committee.

In September 1990, he was appointed Liberal critic for external affairs and chairman of the Liberal caucus committee on external affairs and national defence. In May 1991, he was nominated vice-chairman of the House standing committee on external affairs and international trade.

Axworthy is a graduate of Princeton University in Princeton, N.J., where he obtained a masters of arts degree in political science in 1963 and his doctorate in 1972. He was a professor of political science at the University of Winnipeg from 1965 to 1967 and from 1969 to 1979. He also served as director of the University of Winnipeg's Institute of Urban Studies from 1969 to 1973.

Canada prepares for Balkan military strike by NATO

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

If Serb forces continue to attack and kill civilians in Kosovo, then NATO would take military action against them, Canada's foreign affairs minister told Niagara College students March 19.

Lloyd Axworthy said Canada and the rest of the countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization were prepared to fight a war in Kosovo to bring Serbia's President Milosevic to international justice.

His statement came as part of a noon-time address to about 100 students and media representatives at the college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Axworthy outlined Canada's rising prominence in world affairs in advocating human rights, in pressing other global powers to arrest and try war criminals before an international war crimes tribunal, in protecting civilians in war zones through international military force and in creating a treaty banning the global use, production and sale of land mines.

Lloyd Axworthy talks to students and dignitaries at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the Lake.

Photo by Elisabeth Irwin

During his 20-minute talk, he stressed civilians had to be protected from the violence of vicious warlords in numerous conflicts.

Addressing "Canada's role on the world stage," Axworthy said Kosovo peace talks had broken down in France when the ethnic Albanians signed the peace agreement but the Serbs refused to do so.

He stated NATO military forces received activation orders. If the Serbian forces didn't stop killing Kosovo's civilians over the next three or four days NATO would use military force against Milosevic's troops.

Axworthy said it's unfortunate things have reached this stage but in the world, "there are some people who have no sense of reasoning and terrorize innocent people so they have to be handled with force.

"It's quite likely that NATO would have to bomb the Serbs to stop them," he ended.

During a reception following the address, Axworth met members of a visiting Chinese delegation that has been touring Niagara College and the Niagara Region.

Celebrate With The Graduate
To the second year Journalism students
Our two years together have come and gone but the memories will last forever!
Good luck in the future
Tiffany

Politics

New Democrats have iron-clad plan

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

TORONTO — Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Howard Hampton says he has the solution and an iron-clad plan to stop the move to an American-style for-profit health and home care without increasing the deficit.

"Only the NDP can guarantee

HOWARD HAMPTON

assessment by registered nurses of all emergency cases within 15 minutes of entering the hospital as part of a Patient's Bill of Rights," says Hampton. The bill would bring into law accountability to patients, and a commissioner, independent of the government, would be appointed.

His slogan for the upcoming election is Today's NDP. He says he has demonstrated that the NDP can restore "real" rent control.

"By building affordable housing and helping the homeless rebuild their lives by enhancing shelter allowances and creating supportive housing as recommended in the Homeless Action Task Force, all without adding a single cent to the deficit."

He says it's one thing to see the homeless on television, hear about it on the radio or read about it in a newspaper. "It's quite another to go out and see the problem first-hand."

He says when you confront the homeless face to face, "the gravity hits you like a runaway train."

He says the Conservatives and Liberals have been silent on the issue and the NDP has raised the issue more than 40 times in the legislature since the spring of 1998.

He says 38 per cent of all homeless people have tuberculosis, a contagious disease once thought to have been eradicated. Thirty-five per cent of hostel residents are affected by mental illness as are half of the general homeless population.

Hampton says when he looked into the eyes of someone whose "home" is a crowded, dirty emergency shelter or a hostel, "I saw how homelessness bleeds away hope in people."

He says street workers have told him it only takes one month on the streets or in a hostel for a person to start developing mental problems like chronic depression.

He says when Premier Mike Harris "killed" affordable housing and rent control, when he lowered shelter allowances and cut social assistance to give the wealthy a tax break, he created a whole new class of homeless people — families with children.

"The most frustrating aspect is that there is a solution to homelessness. It's called political will — to build affordable housing, provide adequate shelter allowances, restore rent control and proper community supports for the mentally ill."

He says when you see 90 people sleeping on thin mattresses six inches apart on a hard floor, with only two showers and a few washrooms, that pressing for action is the right course.

"Travelling with the Anishnawbe Street Patrol and meeting people disadvantaged by circumstance hardened my resolve to do everything I can to pressure governments to act."

He says when people have "hope" they can change their lives for the better, "and that benefits us all."

Hampton says the Harris Conservatives will find women have a "very" loud voice in the next election.

"The first week of March, we celebrated International Women's Day. Today, women can actually decide the outcome of the election."

He says women have been most affected because women are the ones who end up filling the gaps and falling through the cracks caused by the government's cuts to health care, education and communities.

In the legislature, the NDP moved to stop the Conservatives from forcing women separated from violent ex-partners, to serve their own court-ordered support papers.

He says the NDP has made a commitment to remove obstacles that prevent women from escaping violence in the home by increasing shelter allowances and building affordable housing.

"Only Today's NDP has made the iron-clad commitment to help the growing numbers of women and children who are becoming homeless."

Froese decides one term isn't enough

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — People can make a difference.

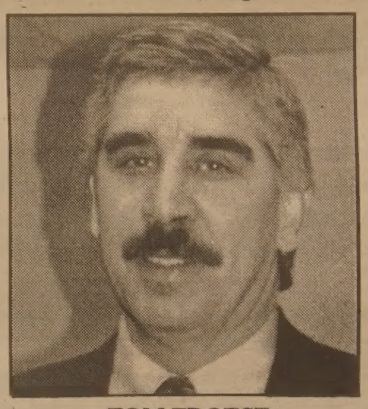
"A number of people came to me and said, 'Tom, you should be running,' and the riding association came to me about my interest in running, and here I am," said Tom Froese.

The Progressive Conservative MPP, elected in 1995, said last February he was interested in serving only one term, but the number of people over the last few months, "particularly the last month or so," who have come to him was a "humbling" experience. He said people, some not affiliated with any political party, approached him and asked him to run.

"They feel strongly. They believe in what the Harris government is doing. They might not agree with everything they're doing, they agree it's in the right direction."

He said the riding association cleared the way for his nomination meeting and "here we are."

The riding's boundaries consist of half of St. Catharines in Froese's St. Catharines-Brock riding, all of the



TOM FROESE

north end of St. Catharines, which is currently Liberal MPP Jim Bradley's riding, and takes in west St. Catharines to 7th Street Louth.

Froese said he and Bradley have become "good friends" over the last four years.

"It's going to be a good race, a clean, fair race, but I think it's going to be a close race."

Froese said it will be "interesting" because the people will have a choice.

"Certainly Jim feels that I will be his strongest opponent," said Froese. "When you have two individuals that are kind of the same, that are reasonable, that are fair with totally opposite ideologies but in style are the same, it's going to be a close one."

Froese said the election will come down to Premier Mike Harris, the government, the direction it took and the courage it had to make the tough decisions.

He said Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty doesn't have a plan and "he's not a strong leader." Froese said that's where the battleground will be, between Harris and McGuinty.

He said although he's only been around for four years, he's done a lot for the community.

"St. Catharines can feel good about electing a guy who works for the community." He said the money's there, Niagara College is there, the peer funding for Brock University and increased funding for Community Care Access Centre is all there because of a government member willing to work.

"The people of St. Catharines understand that and feel that."

Asked if public opinion has swayed because of the Hotel Dieu Hospital staying open, he said people were coming to him months before to run.

"I've got a really good feeling about this whole thing," said Froese. "It's going to be tough and I don't know how the union bosses are going to do things down here in Niagara, whether they're going to come after me personally or just the party. I don't know."

Froese is referring to Canadian Auto Workers Union leader Buzz Hargrove's recent announcement the unions are committed to ousting Harris.

He said whatever the tactics the union bosses decide to take, he'll have to be prepared for anything.

"I feel very confident in that we have a great leader, one who's willing to do what's right."

He said he "believes" strongly in Harris's leadership. As for the hospital situation, he said five out of the 10 local hospitals are in his riding, and there was a lot of pressure on him to stand up, kick and scream about the closing of the hospitals. "But I believe in the process."

He said it wasn't the politicians who saved the Hotel Dieu, but the community.

Kormos indoctrinates students into politics

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Beware of advertising governments.

The first-year Journalism-Print program students have been indoctrinated into provincial affairs by a member of provincial parliament (MPP).

Peter Kormos, MPP for the Welland/Thorold riding, spoke to the Niagara College class of future journalists on March 17.

Elected in 1995, Kormos, a member of the New Democratic Party (NDP), is known for his willingness to speak out against government, even if it happens to be his own party at the time.

Kormos opened by commenting on what he saw while on his way in to the college: a group of Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film students selling tickets to raise money to support their program.

"Colleges like Niagara College should have sufficient budgets raised from tax revenues," he said, adding this should mean students shouldn't have to resort to fund-raising.

'When a government advertises, you know there's a problem.'

These remarks preceded his attack on the Conservative (Tory) government's recent advertising campaigns.

"When a government advertises, you know there's a problem," said Kormos. He went on to say governments have no business advertising with taxpayer dollars.

PETER KORMOS

Kormos admits this campaign has helped the Tories to overcome — and quite successfully too — such things as Bill 160 and its cuts to education. He said the government is now going through the same situation in health care and again is using advertising to put the matter to rest.

"The Tories have a real good chance of being re-elected," said Kormos.

It's expected Premier Harris will call an election this spring.

The past three provincial elections in Ontario have been "sweeps," said Kormos.

In 1987 he said the Liberals under David Peterson swept in on a majority government. In 1990 the NDP under Bob Rae took a majority and then, in 1995, the Tories under Harris were elected with another majority.

The problem with this "phenomenon" in the voting trend is people who have no business being in the legislature get elected, he said.

Calling them "neophytes" or first timers, Kormos said, "most of them have never been on a plane before."

He adds these people are overwhelmed by the experience of being in Toronto.

"They find themselves being seduced by the status of being called ma'am or sir."

The problem with this, he said, is the politicians who should be there and who do care about their constituents, aren't.

As for his own re-election, Kormos said he isn't worried since his record speaks for itself.

Editorial

Niagara News

The **Niagara News** is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211 Ext. 7753/ 374-7454/ 641-2252/ 563-3254 FAX (905) 736-6005.

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Let's treat others with more respect

Do morals still exist?

In a society where we, and the things around us, are constantly changing, it makes you wonder what we are losing.

It seems the more our lifestyles change, the more we seem to forget about the important things, things like common sense, common decency and treating others with respect.

We sit back and watch people do things that we know are wrong, and they know are wrong, but nothing is said. Nothing is done. We see things that make us wonder "how could they possibly do something like that?" The reality is, however, this seems to be the way our society is heading.

With all of the demands that are put on us through school, work, friendships and family, we lose sight of what makes it all worth it — to be proud of what we have accomplished and to make others happy.

Everything has become a competition. We, as a society, have become very selfish and don't seem to care how high the price is that we have to pay, as long as we get what we want.

Think about it: how often have you heard friends talk about how they have cheated or have been cheated on? When did this become acceptable? This is becoming more common every day.

Do people have a conscience anymore?

We need to take a minute and sit back to look at ourselves. Can you look at yourself in the mirror and say you are proud of what you have become? How many of us can?

Tiffany Herron

Road rage becoming serious problem

It happens every day. People scream curses. They get into fist fights. Driving is dangerous.

Incidents such as fist fights between drivers because a driver wasn't speeding or a driver making a mistake happen more often than they should.

There are more common incidents such as screaming at each other, following a car and tailgating as well, but all are dangerous.

Everyone at times gets angry and curses or insults the driver going 20 miles an hour under the speed limit, but most people do it under their breath and pass the car or go another way.

The roads are becoming more dangerous, not because of accidents but because of violent, aggressive drivers. When people get in their car they only have to worry not only about other drivers making mistakes but about other drivers beating them up.

The police seem to be taking a very strong stance on road rage, but fines and community service do not stop people from acting out their aggression.

It has become part of our society to be pressed for time and so worried about the vehicle that instead of thinking "oh well, mistakes happen" it seems to have become instinctive for people to ask "who is that idiot and how did he gets his license?"

There has probably always been some road rage, but it seems to have gotten much worse over the years.

The major problem has nothing to do with the punishments. It is the stress people have on them. Our society is so stressed and time-pressured people vent out their frustration on other drivers instead of a family member or a boss.

Until they learn their lesson the drivers responsible for the problems on the road will continue to be a hazard to cause other drivers to be extra cautious.

The additional threat involved in road rage is not needed when we think of the many people who have died needlessly from accidents.

Sarah Storm

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On brink of graduation, life's full of what ifs

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

It's almost over!

For a lot of us at Niagara our college experience is almost over. I don't know about you, but I have mixed feelings about graduating.

On one hand, I'm excited about the future. My diploma signifies an accomplishment. I know, however, it may not mean much to those going on to university or those who found it easy.

To me it means a lot because school was never easy for me. I never even graduated from high school. Don't get me wrong. I'm not stupid. It's just very difficult for me to get up in the morning and drag myself to classes.

Since I don't make it to many classes I miss a lot of information and am, therefore, constantly struggling to catch up.

So, I'm really looking forward to that piece of paper that says I finished something.

On the other hand I'm only 20 years old and I feel like I'm 17. I'm still a child and I don't know if I'm ready to be out in the real world with all of that responsibility.

What if I can't find a job? Or worse, what if I find a job only to find out I can't do it?

I guess life is full of what ifs and we can't be scared of the future. To all those graduating this year, good luck. I'm sure you'll do great.

Viewpoints

Remembering when 21 seemed so old

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

I remember being about 12 years old and looking up to my aunt Sheila just amazed because she was 21, independent and smart. I thought, "I can't wait to be that old."

I thought when I'm 23 I would be married and when I'm 25 I'd have children, as well.

I am 20 now and my ambitions have drastically changed. School and a career were always important to me but they have become a priority over marriage and a family. The latter goals are now up in the air. I would hope being married and having children would happen before I am 30 but what will be, will be.

It's funny how, when I was younger, I had my whole life planned out: what career I was going into, how much money I was going to earn, what kind of person I would marry, even what type of house I would live in and where. I was determined what I had planned was what was going to happen.

Looking at life from now, I would hope I see things much more realistically and not from my naive, gullible childhood eyes.

I don't think the "you can do anything if you put your mind to it" advice children get drilled into their heads is necessarily a bad thing. If we desensitized children to be realistic and know about the world from day one, we would probably steal part of their childhood from them. We would take away some of their carefree fun.

I wonder, though, if children look at me and see the same thing I saw in my aunt.

That makes me feel old. I realize the decisions I make now are going to affect my whole life.

In April I am going to be a college graduate and I am moving away from home to go to university, to take politics, something not very many people recommend I take. I am becoming more independent every day, and making major decisions becomes easier and easier as I go along.

I am a little scared that what I decide will be wrong or wonder what tragedies I will have to deal with and if I will be able to handle them. I guess that's all part of growing up. Nevertheless, it seems like just yesterday I was admiring my aunt and wishing I could be like her and have the independence she had.

Life seems to be going by too fast. I think my goal now is to do what I have always wanted to do while I am young enough, before time runs out and I have a family, a husband, bills and other responsibilities to distract me or stop me from doing all of those things. The more I get done now, the less I will regret tomorrow.

Prescription for good trip, don't buy new shoes

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

The most rewarding aspect of a vacation is venturing off into a new region and exploring all that deserves exploration.

There are people to meet, buses to ride, museums to visit . . . stairs to climb, sidewalks to follow and sore, aching feet.

Traveling during March Break with shoes less than adequate has brought me to the conclusion a prescription for a successful trip requires, above all, comfortable footwear.

Before leaving my home for a week's trip to Ottawa and Montreal, I neglected to check my boots. What a surprise for me to discover, upon arrival in Canada's snowy capital, that the footwear I thought would comfort and protect my feet, wouldn't.

My left boot had a gaping hole. I figure it happened when I placed it on the hot-air vent to dry weeks ago.

Wearing holey boots quickly turned a simple walk to our accommodations on a mild winter's day into a sopping-wet expedition through slush and water.

Immediately I got myself to a shoe store.

Buying shoes outside of my hometown is a challenge within itself. When I left Welland there was no snow; it felt like spring. Ottawa's temperatures, in comparison, were below freezing. I needed to find footwear that would suffice in wintry weather, but that I'd also make use of once back in Welland.

After going through the process of putting shoes on, taking them off, putting shoes on, and walking around the store, I decided on a $30 pair of snug-fitting waterproof suede shoes.

It wasn't long before I realized that I'd misjudged the slight tightness I felt in the store. These shoes were too small and my only hope was that, with wear, they'd loosen up.

After walking not more than an hour in the shoes I was quickly aware that these shoes were far, far, far too small.

That day we traveled to the Parliament Buildings, to museum after museum and along countless roads and pathways. Every agonizing step took me farther and farther away from a pleasant day of playing tourist.

It's difficult to admire the artistic quality of sculptures on the walls of the Parliament Buildings when you're busy judging how many steps you'll have to take to get to the end of the corridor.

The pointed-tip shoes squashing my tender toes into a space that seemed two sizes too small also tore up my heels.

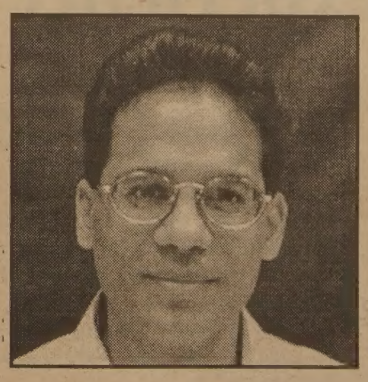
As souvenirs one of my friends got a wall-hanging, the other got a novelty book. I got two blisters. These would grow and pop, grow and pop continuously throughout the journey.

Thus began my morning and evening ritual of medicating, Band-Aiding and massaging my over-worked, under-privileged feet.

I had to run to catch buses. I had to stomp through hail and rain. I even had to remove my socks at a museum so there was more room in those tiny green shoes.

My advice to you if you are planning any type of trip for any length of time would be to forget Mastercard and not even think of leaving home until you've got an excellent pair of comfortable shoes.

Nazis' xenophobic evil threatens democracy worldwide



By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

The recent victory of the far-right Freedom Party in the Austrian state elections on March 7 has once more brought the evil spectre of European Nazism to the world stage.

Under the leadership of Joerg Haider, who has said openly that he admires Adolph Hitler, the racist Freedom Party has become one of the largest political parties in Austria.

This bunch of organized bigots got a huge 42.1 per cent of the national vote in the state elections, thereby becoming the biggest party in the Austrian state of Carinthia.

There is the distinct possibility Haider could become the next governor of Carinthia. He's the leader of the largest party in that state's parliament and thus the first choice for this post.

All he needs is to be endorsed by two-thirds of the members in the Carinthia state parliament. This may not be a problem because he is charismatic enough to sway many of them.

This shocking and chilling election result was a major humiliation for the two other Austrian political parties, the Social Democrats and the conservative-thinking People's Party.

The Social Democrats, under the leadership of Austria's Chancellor Viktor Kilma, suffered the worst electoral result by garnering 32.9 per cent of the state vote, a decline of 4.5 points.

The Freedom Party is the strongest far-right party in any of the European countries. It garnered 22 per cent of the national vote in the 1995 general election.

Now this political clown named Haider and his Freedom Party have been spewing their rabid racism against immigrants for the last decade, ever since he became its leader in 1986.

Like all unscrupulous political manipulators, he and the rest of his supporters used the economic downturn of the late 1980s and early 1990s to blame the immigrants as being the true cause.

He played the race card effectively because he was able to win the hearts and minds of too many Austrians with his absurd, racist garbage.

You have to remember Austria produced Adolph Hitler, one of history's worst fiends. Judging from these Austrian state elections, a lot of Austrians still support the Nazi philosophy by putting a self-confessed Hitler admirer into political office.

Haven't they learnt from history?

Don't they know that it took a bloody and savage World War to stop Hitler and his racist hordes from butchering so much of humanity?

Don't they realize Nazis sympathizers like Haider can never be allowed to assume any kind of political power whatsoever because they will feel that they can spread their xenophobic evil?

Haider has his Nazi supporters in other Western, democratic countries.

There has been a terrifying resurgence of Nazism throughout Europe over the last 15 years. Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal have all seen the ugly sight of Nazi-clad supporters marching through their streets.

Hate crimes against European non-whites, Jews and Gypsies have been dramatically increasing since the 1980s with Neo-Nazi skinheads being guilty of these heinous crimes.

Europe is still not immune to the scourge of Nazism.

No longer is North America, especially Canada, immune. Almost every month there are reports of hate crimes being committed against people of colour in various Canadian and American cities and towns.

The Neo-Nazi movement is a threat to Canadian security, plain and simple. There is no doubt that they will be inspired by the recent Austrian elections to vie for the highest positions within the Canadian political hierarchy.

America is struggling to deal with Neo-Nazi skinhead terrorism.

Therefore, it must be defended by the majority of decent, right-thinking people in these societies; otherwise, the consequences would be hideous.

Helping Hand

Co-op programs help students, employers

Academic studies alternate with job

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

Co-op programs are proving to be a benefit to students and employers.

Co-operative education started in the U.S. in 1906 and in Canada in 1958. The statistics from the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education says more than 43,000 students from 85 post-secondary institutions are participating in co-op programs.

At Niagara College about 1,200 co-op students are enrolled in 17 business, technology, hospitality, community studies, and environmental and horticultural programs. Payment is negotiated between the student and the employer, but non-paid experience is also beneficial.

Co-op students alternate academic studies with on-the-job experience. Successful completion of the co-op schedule is needed for graduation from the Co-operative Education programs.

Karen Pacheco is the co-operative education consultant for Employment Services at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She's responsible for the Mechanical Engineering Technology (Co-op), Manufacturing Engineering Technology (Co-op), Business-Accounting (Academic and Co-op) and Business Administration-Accounting (Academic and Co-op) programs.

Pacheco said she contacts employers each term to establish relationships with them and to post the jobs available.

She said students are also looking for their own work, and Employment Services is available to advise employers and to approve jobs. She said Employment Services provides résumé, cover letter and interview skills assistance.

"I think that it's a real partnership between the college, myself and Employment Services, the students, the faculty, the administration and the employers.

"I'm very fortunate. I find that the students that I have to work with are, in the majority of cases, hard working and they have a lot of initiatives.

"Students come in with good skills so the co-op portion lets them utilize their skills and learn more — not just the hard skills but communication skills and interpersonal skills. Those types of skills are what we find the students learn while they are on the job."

Stuart Johnston, 30, of Grimsby, is in his fourth year of the Mechanical Engineering Technology (Co-op) program (MET) at the Welland campus. He expects to graduate in April after completing some academic studies at the Glendale campus. Before beginning his program in 1995, he spent seven years in the Canadian infantry as a corporal.

"The co-op office actually goes out and canvasses the businesses in the area and tries to find positions for us, and they post them," said Johnston.

"In my first co-op, I applied to a few jobs. The one at Westinghouse in particular was interesting to me. When I interviewed for it, I was hired on the spot and took the job working in the repairs department fixing turbines."

Johnson started at Westinghouse in January 1997 and finished the following September.

Karen Pacheco, Stuart Johnston and Tony Black stand in front of the Employment Services office at the Glendale campus.
Photo by J.W. Brown

"The other co-op was at Nanticoke, Ont., at Lake Erie Steel. I went up for an interview. I found that one through the co-op office again. Two of us from the school interviewed for one position and I was hired on the spot again for that one. That job has led to a full-time position at Lake Erie Steel in the steel-making division."

Lake Erie Steel is a subsidiary of Stelco Inc. He was there from April 1998 to January 1999, when he started at the Glendale campus.

"Karen Pacheco, she's been fantastic for the class," Johnston said. "She's found a lot of people co-ops and has really come through for a lot of people."

Asked what he would say to beginning students in his program, Johnston said, "All I can say is 'hang in.' If anybody tells you it gets easier in the fourth year, they're full of it. It didn't get any easier in fourth year. It's actually been the hardest semester of the whole four years."

Tony Black, 22, of St. Marys, Ont., is also in his fourth year of the MET program at the Welland campus and expects to graduate in April. His first co-op job was at St. Marys Cement Co., which became Blue Circle Cement in April 1997. He was there from January to September 1997. His second co-op job was at Blue Circle Cement from April 1998 to January 1999, when he too started at the Glendale campus.

"I found my own co-op job my first term and worked there for eight months," said Black, "and I was offered a second co-op when it came up. They wanted me to come back and work for them again. Consequently, it's led into a job with the company.

"Karen Pacheco has been really good for our program," said Black. "She's done really well and has been excellent for the course.

"The program has been really good. It's been a good learning experience. It's been a lot of work (and) it hasn't been easy. It's been a good life experience as well."

Asked what he would say to beginning students, Black said. "Hang in there, it's never easy and it's never going to be easy but you work through it and good things will happen. You'll end up getting a job somewhere. Try to do your best and you'll get what you deserve."

Student picks Niagara because of co-op experience

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

A short-term co-op could turn into enough experience for a life-long career.

Sarah Egger, 19, of Dunnville, said she specifically chose Niagara College for its co-op program.

"It was a toss up between Mohawk (in Hamilton) and Niagara because they are both the same distance, but Niagara's co-op program is so much better."

Egger, a second-year Business-Accounting program student, said she was attracted to the "timing" and "organization" of the program.

She said she became more interested when she found out she could mix a financial planning aspect into her program and her co-op.

Egger began her studies at the Welland campus and then moved to Glendale in the fall. She said although the new campus is "a nice change," she does not enjoy the long drive.

"They told us right from the start that the only people this would inconvenience is people from Dunnville."

Her driving time was doubled from taking a half hour to get to Welland to a full hour to the Glendale campus.

Egger is doing her co-op placement in MemberCare at the Niagara Credit Union on Niagara Street in Welland.

She said she was the only one who applied because no one else in her program was interested. She said this was because they didn't want a position in financial planning.

The people at the credit union have welcomed Egger, she said, and she's coming out having learned "a lot about financial planning."

SARAH EGGER

She said she sees her new skills to be "pretty much right on" to what she wants to do and sees her co-op to be "a great stepping-stone."

First semester of the Business-Accounting program included 25 to 28 hours of class time a week. Her co-op is running full time for 40 hours a week. The ending requirements are 550 hours, before returning for another month of studies in early May.

Egger's contract with the credit union is only budgeted for 400 hours, but she said she is hoping they can afford to still keep her on after that.

In class, all students must maintain a 70 per cent average in every mandatory class. The only exception was a co-op class, which the students needed to maintain over 60 per cent to go on to the actual co-op aspect of the program.

Egger said she recommends a co-op program for everyone who wants to gain experience in a field he or she is interested in.

She said it gives someone "a better idea if that's what they really want to do."

She has seen people come out of school and not enjoy what they're doing and have to go back. She does not want to fall into that situation.

"I think it's a really great way to get to know the field and to maybe get some contacts before you go outside into the real world," she said. "It's a great way to get experience."

There's no paper next week, but we'll return April 9th.

Profiles

Salon offers more than cutting-edge style

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

In a decade where fashion in the hair design industry seems to be floating through the past, everyone is allowed the freedom of a unique look.

John Steinburg and Associates is exploring all aspects of design with styles based on simplicity from the popular request of a low-maintenance, wash-and-go hair style to the out-of-this-world design of the upcoming millennium.

Hair defies gravity in the fantasy side of the fashion world, so the salon has been recreating Japanimation hair styles. The ideas come from Japanese cartoons and the stylists are using strong wearable colours to shade parts of the hair like an artist would shade a character.

Starting at age 15 as an apprentice at a hair salon in London, England, John Steinburg has been involved in the industry for 40 years.

With a tycoon status in the Canadian hair dressing industry, Steinburg is nationally famous for the creativity and diversity he has brought to the Canadian industry.

"Europe used to be more advanced and the trendsetter, but North America has gained a lot of information and is now able to hold its own in the industry," said Steinburg.

Steinburg started off in Toronto

with his first Canadian salon, The Rainbow Room, in Toronto's Rosedale area. His dedication to workshops, seminars, national shows and makeovers has kept him challenging all of the boundaries and leaving nothing unexplored.

"It's a great time to be a hairdresser. There is a market for every hair style," said Steinburg. "It's all imagination."

Steinburg has a diverse clientele from rock stars and movie stars to the average neighbourhood mom.

Recently united, Steinburg and his two associates, Dee Carter and Russ Mackay, opened the John Steinburg and Associates Salon in Toronto.

Carter, of St. Catharines, manages the John Steinburg and Associates salon, on St. Paul Street, in St. Catharines, which opened in October 1997.

Carter has been in the industry for

Shown above are John Steinburg, owner of John Steinburg and Associates, and Dee Carter, associate and manager of the St. Catharines salon.

Photo by Noelle Stapinsky

20 years, starting at the Missing Link Salon in St. Catharines under the teachings of Marvin Grant and Peter Santo.

"Marvin taught me the rules and Peter helped me break them. I was taught, if it looks good go with it. I like feeling my haircuts and creating a style rather than using technical hair cutting techniques," said Carter.

The Missing Link was a hot spot during the punk craze in the 1980s.

"We did the wildest designs. It was fun but it was also a classic case of knowing the rules because of the extreme colours we were using," said Carter.

"We're still using unreal colours to create definition with different hair styles," said Carter.

The salon's prices start at $25 for a cut and $45 for the basic colour.

The creativity doesn't stop at hair styling and colour creating, however.

Steinburg started a fund-raiser for breast cancer research and treatment at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital Breast Cancer Centre in honour of his mother, who in 1990 lost her battle with cancer.

The fund-raiser is the John Steinburg Open Pool Tournament. It is in its fifth annual year. It's a popular event for more than 500 beauty professionals and their clients. The event has raised $30,000 over four years, bringing in more than $10,000 last year.

The salon also supports independent artists for art displays in the salon for an eight- to 10-week period. The salon never fails to sell a piece and all of the money received goes to the artist.

'We're always looking for new art to display in the salon.' —Dee Carter

"We're always looking for new art to display in the salons," said Carter. "Right now we have work from a Grimsby artist, displayed here at the St. Catharines salon. We welcome students to drop by with portfolios."

The salon is opened as an art gallery when there is a new artist displayed.

"We are very interested in entertaining students. It's very important to us," said Steinburg.

"When we came to St. Catharines we introduced ourselves to all of the other salons, but there isn't a lot of interaction between salons. We would like a healthier competition," said Carter.

Kidney Foundation vital to disease sufferers

Organization has helped more than two million

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

Drew Oleniuk appears to be a happy, well adjusted 10-year-old, yet he is one of many individuals who suffer from kidney disease.

Born with hydronrophrosis, blockage in the urinary tract, he had his first major operation when he was four weeks old. It damaged his kidneys.

The Kidney Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that has helped more than two million Canadians who suffer from kidney disease and other related disorders, has helped the Oleniuks with many things since Drew was born, says his mother Kathy.

"When Drew was born and we were in Toronto a lot at Sick Kids Hospital, they gave us a binder on kidney patients and that was really helpful because before this I knew nothing about kidney problems.

"When they gave me that binder, they gave me a lot of information that was helpful. When he was in the hospital for his surgery he was there for almost three months. I would be up there for days on end and I didn't have enough money for gas to get home and the hospital would arrange for the Kidney Foundation to give me money and that was a lifesaver for me."

Drew, who wears a catheter, which, he says, is annoying, is well adapted because he has lived with the disease all of his life.

"Normally he does pretty much everything that other kids do. I try to discourage him a little bit from rough sports because he doesn't want to bruise a kidney or suffer any kind of damage that way.

"His bones are possibly a little more brittle, but, touch wood, he's never broken anything. He's small. This is one of his issues because kidney patients tend to be shorter because of stunted growth," says Kathy.

"I'm not allowed to play my favourite sport, football, because it damages my kidneys," says Drew.

With the month of March being the time for the Kidney Foundation's huge fund-raising campaign, Kathy says she and her family are involved.

"We have the Chili Fest at the Stamford Lioness Club in Niagara Falls and I'm canvassing this month in our neighbourhood. My daughter's on the student council at school and they had a dance Friday before the March break and they charged admission, which normally they don't do, and all the money from that is going to the Kidney Foundation."

Drew has even helped bring awareness of kidney disease by shooting a commercial for Cogeco, which will be airing in March.

Kathy says a kidney transplant for Drew is inevitable and she will be the first one to be tested to be a possible donor.

"We had a meeting in the beginning of the month in Toronto where we met with the transplant team, the dialysis team, dietitians and social workers, all of the crew. We are going to start looking into that sort of thing."

Because the Kidney Foundation relies heavily on donations from the public, Kathy says it is important for people to get involved and donate.

"It's very important that they make that donation so that people can be made aware. People need to be informed."

Palm Sunday offers historical significance

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

You'll find no reference to it in the Bible, yet it's celebrated by Christians worldwide.

Palm Sunday is the last Sunday before Easter and marks the end of Lent, a 40-day fast observed by Christians. It represents the beginning of the Holy Week in Christianity.

The day has been celebrated since the 300s, yet its significance stretches back about 300 years before this. As most Christians know, it marks the day on which Jesus entered Jerusalem.

However, the historical importance of that entrance is often forgotten.

They call it Palm Sunday in reference to the palm leaves tossed in front of Jesus and his donkey as he made his way into the city.

This treatment angered the leaders of the Jews because the people were treating Jesus as if he were a king.

After entering Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Court of the Gentiles where he found money-changers, people whose purpose was to exchange currency for those who had travelled from distant lands to do business in the city.

Jesus drove these money-changers out of the Court.

This act showed his anger towards the Jewish leaders of the temple for allowing business to interfere with the prayers of the Gentiles who wish to worship the God of Israel.

The leaders asked Jesus to disapprove of the treatment he was receiving, but He replied by quoting a passage from Psalms 8:2.

"Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have perfected your praise because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger."

He only quoted the first half of this verse, but the Jewish leaders were aware of the rest.

The reply would have proven Jesus was aware of their plot to get rid of Him and thus increased the hostilities between them.

That night Jesus left Jerusalem and went to the town of Bethany where he spent the night, but He returned the next morning.

The tension between Jesus and the Jewish leaders continued to escalate until it reached its peak leading to His betrayal by Judas on Wednesday.

Jesus attended the last supper on Thursday with His disciples, after which He was arrested, tortured and crucified on the Friday.

You will find no reference to Palm Sunday, Lent, Good Friday, Easter or even Christmas in the Bible. To find such references you must go to an encyclopedia.

It is this way because these celebrations originate with man and not with God. Such celebrations started in the Roman Catholic Church, but since they have been adopted by many Protestant faiths as well.

The research for this article was done at the following World Wide Web sites: http://www.cired.org/faith/palm.htmlm and http://edge.edge.net/-paul101/palmsund.html.

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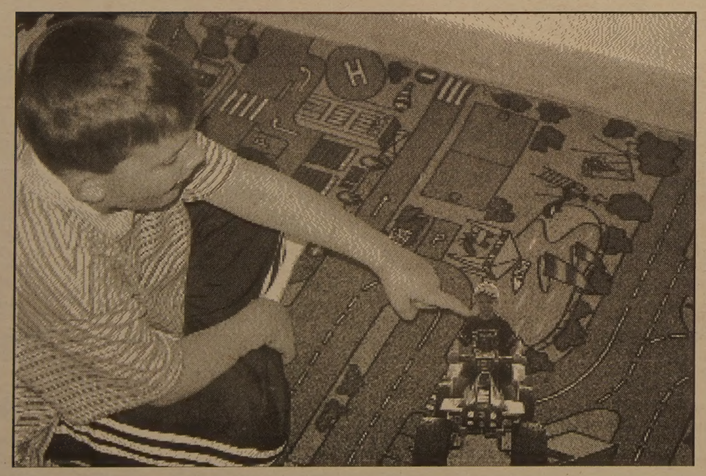

Photo Compositions

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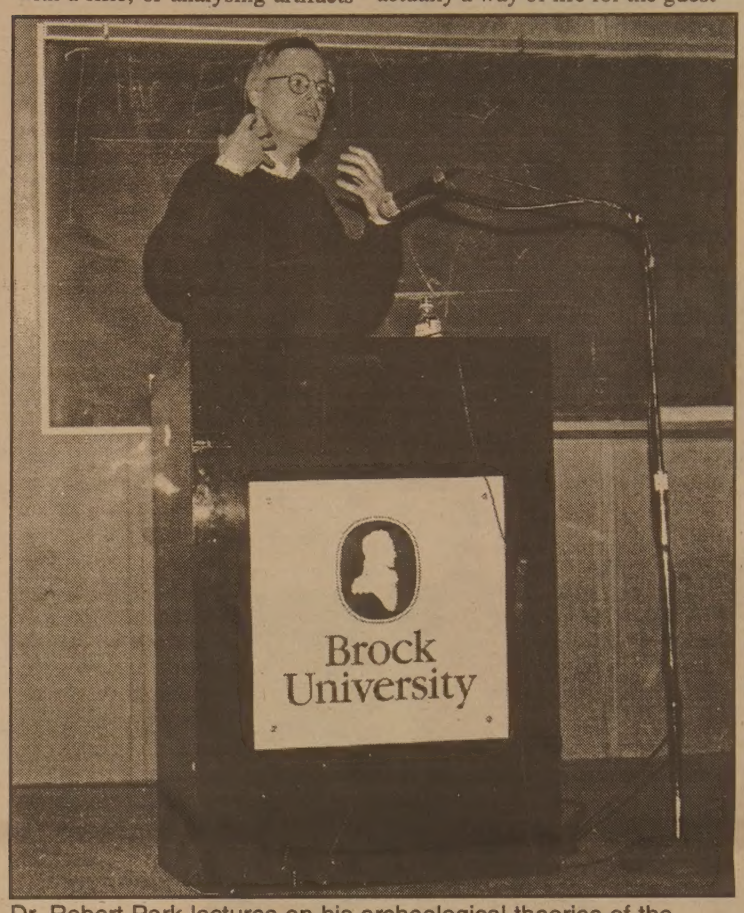
Other Lands

Speakers focus on world archeology

By MIKE EARWICKER
Staff Writer

Hanging off cliffs collecting rock samples, fending off polar bears with a rifle, or analysing artifacts found on an archeological dig—it's all part of job.

It sounds like the beginning to a new Indiana Jones film, but it is actually a way of life for the guest speakers at the Brock University's Archeology Society Symposium on March 21.



Dr. Robert Park lectures on his archeological theories of the Canadian Arctic at Brock University's Archeology Society Symposium.

Photo by Mike Earwicker

The speakers' lectures focused on World Archeology focusing mainly on Inuit, Neolithic and Cypriot archeology.

Dr. Robert Park, of Waterloo University's department of anthropology and classical studies, was the first to speak. His topic was experiences on digs in Arctic Canada. His lecture, titled "Miniature Adults: Archeological Investigations of Childhood in the Thule Culture of Arctic Canada," focused on his theories of the child in the Thule (Tool-ee) culture in comparison to that of other races that have lived in the Arctic.

"People have lived in the Canadian Arctic for a little over 4,000 years," said Park.

Park's archeological digs have to be well planned before actually embarks. He and his digging party only have a window of about a month for their expedition. The Arctic thaw is complete in mid-July and the first snowfall happens about mid to late August.

Park says it is always a battle against the weather, against the polar bears, and even against the ground they are digging in, which is made up purely of gravel.

His digs have been successful, turning up campsites that have had little disturbance for over 400 years. Permafrost has assisted in preserving artifacts, such as a bundle of bows tied with some grass, in the same condition that they were left in.

Dr. Michael Bisson, of McGill University's department of anthropology, was the second speaker. He lectured on "Decoding the Female Imagery from the Upper Paleolithic: The Case of the Grimaldi 'Venus' Figurines."

Bisson's lecture deconstructed the theory that the figurines, first discovered by Edward Piette in France, are not "paleo-pornography," which is the common belief. He says he believes the statuettes, the largest one measuring less than an inch, are symbolic for the safe delivery of a child and the safety of its mother. The statuettes show women at different stages of their life ranging from adolescence to old age. They were made to be worn on a string around their neck.

'It was done to promote archeology in the region . . .' — McCarthy

"It was not about having a lot of children," says Brisson, arguing the theory that they were symbols of fertility.

Bisson, unlike the other lecturers, analyses evidence that has been found in other digs, although he does travel to northern Quebec to scale cliff sides and collect rock samples for his students to work from in his course at McGill.

Sally Stewart, a PhD candidate in anthropology from the University of Toronto, spoke about her theory titled "In Quest of the Pigmy Hippo: Hunter-Gatherer Mobility Strategies on Cyprus," which tries to find out how the hunter-gatherer arrived in Cyprus.

The pygmy hippo and pygmy elephants stood no more than a half a meter in height and were a perfect prey for hunter-gatherers particularly in the mountainous region of Cyprus where they could be mobile or settle. In that particular region there is an abundance of chert, a rock formation that can be easily fashioned into weapons, scrapers and knives. Because there was so much of it, they could use the chert and then discard it knowing that they can find some more during their travels.

"There is an abundance of raw materials," says Stewart, displaying a slide of herself sitting on a chert boulder. The huge amounts of the materials have been able to assist her analysis of the hunter-gatherers and backup some of her theories. She is anxious to return to Cyprus to analyse more materials and scout for more sites for her next dig.

A luncheon was supplied for the symposium by the Archeology Society with over 20 people in attendance to listen to the speakers.

"I am happy with the symposium. It was done to help promote archeology in the region and get people interested because there is so much more to learn," said John McCarthy, Archeological Society president.

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College rep visits South Africa

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

An abandoned factory will be running as a business centre.

Heather Carter, 44, of Fonthill, acting manager of the Business Development Centre at Niagara College's Glendale campus, returned recently from a two-week trip to South Africa.

"My visit was to look at the business centre for the project and to help them implement the curriculum which has been taken by the three faculty members from Niagara College to the East Cape Technikon (ECT) last November," said Carter.

The ECT project focuses on helping South Africa develop entrepreneurship and supporting self-employment there.

Carter said the three faculty members who visited the college last November will implement courses on entrepreneurship and develop a business centre similar to the one at Niagara College.

"We were brought in to talk about our experience in promoting self-employment in Canada."

For the last 10 years, she said the Canadian government has been focusing on encouraging and supporting small businesses.

She estimated the unemployment rate in South Africa is about 40 per cent of the population compared to 12 per cent.

Carter added some terminologies used in South Africa are different from the ones in Canada.

"I visited four campuses of the ECT, which are in East London, Umtata, Butterworth and Queenstown."

Carter said there were about 30-community participants who came to the ECT and discussed the project on "how we incorporate the partners.

"We also met students from the Student Representative Council of the ECT and talked about the initiative and how we want to involve all the campuses."

Carter mentioned she also visited a university and two other technikons, Penn and Cape Technikon in Cape Town.

"One of the big components of the project is the centre itself."

She said the ECT will find a manager for the centre, start advertising and marketing and attract the community to help them.

"Basically, I'm hoping to help the economic growth in South Africa. It's a big challenge for them."

Carter mentioned there are lots of opportunities for youth with a beautiful environment in South Africa.

Eye On Niagara

Folk Arts Council helps immigrants to find jobs

A weekly three-day workshop for newcomers

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

With the end of the term fast approaching, many prospective graduates are looking for jobs.

This is a difficult process, but imagine the difficulty involved for Canadian immigrants who don't know Canadian employment practices.

Since Jan. 11, the Folk Arts Council of St. Catharines has offered a program called Newcomers Employment Workshop Services (NEWS) to help newcomers to Canada find jobs.

"Our (services) can be as basic as people need them to be," says Jackie Wakeling, 29, of St. Catharines. She is one of two employment counsellors/ facilitators at NEWS.

She says this can mean telling immigrants how long to hold eye contact during a job interview or how to write a cover letter.

Since NEWS' inception, it has offered a weekly three-day workshop geared towards helping Canadian newcomers find jobs.

"We really tend to be closeknit in a short period of time," says Wakeling, adding NEWS acts as a support system as well as a pre-employment agency.

She says there are more than 30 pre-employment agencies in Ontario, but NEWS is the only one in the Niagara Region offering services geared towards immigrants.

Wakeling says the lack of self-esteem and self-confidence in the immigrants is one of the two most common problems they face. She says being turned down in the past can be disappointing for them and "that knocks them down a lot."

She says the other most common problem is the misinformation they've received about the accreditation process in Canada, which can give them expectations that "aren't really realistic."

"We've made a lot of headway."

"We've probably seen over 100 people since Jan. 11," says Wakeling. "I think that we've been very successful." Wakeling graduated from Niagara College's Social Service Worker program in 1998.

"I get a sense of accomplishment from my job," she says, adding she had "no specific intention" to get into this field.

She was hired in December by the Folk Arts Council of St. Catharines and helped set up NEWS.

NEWS is in the Folk Arts Council building at 85 Church St., St. Catharines.

Cafeteria surveys students' opinion on its services

Questionnaire on food quality, cleanliness and suggestions

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Inquiring cafeteria minds want to know.

Aramark, the college's food supplier, is asking the students by way of a questionnaire, what they think of the firm's services.

"We wanted to see what the demands were, we want to make sure that we are fulfilling the students requirements," says Peter Mete, food service director, adding "we want to make sure the selection is there."

Mete has been with Aramark for about six months.

The Dining Services Survey has been handed out at the Welland campus cafeteria and Donut Diner and the Glendale and Maid of the Mist campuses last week and this week.

Questions asked were about food quality, service, cleanliness, overall performance, satisfaction and suggestions.

Mete says the cafeteria may be moving to the Simcoe building.

"I think that everybody is looking forward to getting more food services over in the Simcoe building," says Mete.

Ratings are from "excellent" to "poor" with the option of "I don't know." A second rating covers whether or not the characteristics have improved, stayed the same or gotten worse. Frequency of use of the facilities and the types of food purchased are questioned.

In the satisfaction category the options are "very satisfying" to "very dissatisfying."

For suggestions the survey asks what aspect of the dining service could be improved.

Mete says he hopes that the survey addresses "concerns that we may not be aware of."

Mete wants to run the survey annually in December or January.

The results from questionnaire will be read by Mete and he'll go over them with his employees and the college.

He'll assess the results by each campus.

At the end, the questionnaire welcomes additional comments or ideas.

Columbus's favourite ship relocated

A new place for Nina

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

The replica of Christopher Columbus's Nina has found a new place to fight Lake Ontario's strong winds.

The ship, built in 1967, is placed next to the Best Western Beacon Harbour Side Restaurant at Jordan, Ont.

The ship, owned by the restaurant, has historical value. It was brought here by two tow boats from Cornwall, Ont., on July 1 last year.

The ship was previously placed at an aboriginal reserve in Cornwall, Ont., where it was used as a casino.

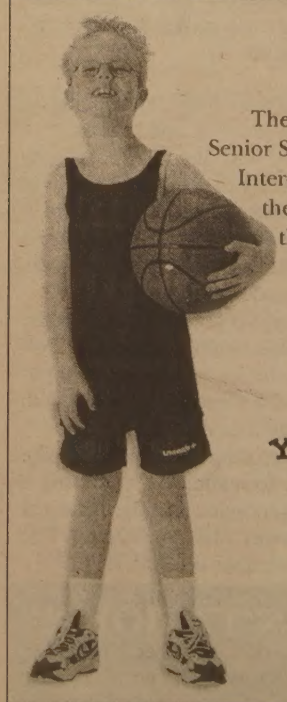
According to Cesare Giardini in his book *The Life and Times of Columbus,* the Nina was originally the Santa Clara, but because it had belonged to a family called Nino it acquired the feminine form of this name.

Nina was Columbus's favourite ship. She carried him safely home from his first voyage, took him to western Cuba and back to Spain on the second, and made another voyage to Hispaniola.

She measured about 60 tons. Her length was not over 70 feet. At the start she was rigged with three sails.

Lesia Hritle, the general manager of the restaurant, said the ship isn't in very good condition, but tourists can go inside at their own risk. A renovation will take place next year, but the plans aren't completed.

She said the owners haven't decided if the ship is going to be renovated as a restaurant or something else.



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YMCA

BRTF's bowling competition

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

Grab your bowling bag and some ugly shoes and head out to support the film program students of Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) fund their documentaries.

On March 31, at Bowl-O-rama on Niagara Street, the BRTF students will be holding their third bowling competition.

"This one is going to be big," said Heather Vanbiesbrouk, of Grimsby.

"We've invited basically everyone and some faculty will be there too."

Prizes will be awarded. For $10, each entering student gets to play three games of 10-pin with shoe rental included.

The bowling tournament proceeds will go toward covering the expenses of producing the third-year film documentaries.

Horticultural open house held at Glendale campus

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Start your gardens early!

The Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is hosting Niagara College's 31st annual horticultural open house and plant sale.

The event will be held at the college's new 20,000-square-foot greenhouse complex. The new greenhouses, completed last month, include a potting soils laboratory, retail area, computerized systems, 16,300-square-foot under glass, nurseries and state-of-the-art equipment.

The open house will be held this Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Articles available for sale will be Martha Washington geraniums, kalanchoes, lilies, dried floral arrangements, hanging baskets, mums, pansies and houseplants.

The Glendale campus is at 135 Taylor Rd.

Eye on Niagara

Sampling fun of cultural diversity

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

It was a year to remember.

When the English as a Second Language (ESL) and International students started at Niagara College in September, there was a welcome barbecue and baseball game to help them get to know one another better. That event was only the beginning.

By October, students knew each other and enjoyed dressing up in costumes for their annual Halloween party at After Hours. Besides a dance they had a buffet dinner and prizes were handed out to the best costumed and to the winners of a limbo contest.

Emi Yamanashi, 23, of Japan, said of all the events the ESL and international students were involved in, she liked the Halloween party the "best."

"I liked it because (we) got to dress up and wear costumes." Tomiko Sugaya, a Level 2 ESL student from Japan, also liked this party the "best because of the costumes."

Also that month, students at the Welland campus prepared displays about their countries and set them up in front of the library for the rest of the college to see.

The international students at the Maid of the Mist Centre, in Niagara Falls, held an open house and prepared food from different countries for others to sample.

Glendale campus's International Day was based on presentations about Jennifer Gillam and Kim Makela, who travelled to Argentina for a co-op. Afterwards they provided samples of food for others to taste.

Christmas was a new adventure for the ESL and international students. For some, it was their first Canadian Christmas with their host families and friends. Others were preparing to head home.

As 1998 marked a busy year, the first part of 1999 has been just as exciting.

As the winter semester started, the students experienced a lot of snow and even class cancellations. They also elected a Social Committee choosing Linden Barrett, a second-year Human Resources student, as their president.

They have committee meetings every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the International room at the Welland campus.

In February, the Social Committee organized a Valentine's Day dance at After Hours. An Aloette party was held for ESL and international ladies. It was put on by Betty Ann Chandler, an ESL teacher.

Although March began with a break week, the rest of the month was busy.

About 20 students travelled to Sulfern Lake over the break for a vacation with faculty member Joanne Klassen as chaperone. Students went to faculty member Mary Lou Eden's house on March 13 to make bread.

Suyaga said she liked the trip 20 students took in the early part of March.

On March 19, they went to a Latin dance club called El Rancho in Toronto.

Still to come is a restaurant trip today for a Mexican dinner to the Taco and Tequila Restaurant on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls.

On March 31, a group of students will be traveling to Ayton, three hours north of Welland, to talk to Grade 7 and 8 students about different cultures. They will stay with a family whose child goes to the public school they will be talking at.

The students will give a 20-minute presentation on their countries and will return here the same day.

To prepare students for their presentation, four meetings were set up, and one more slated for March 29 at 4:30 p.m. for anyone who hasn't attended one yet.

Any other students interested in going to Ayton can as long as they want to discuss their country with the students.

The ESL program has students from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Germany, Colombia, China, Jordan, Indonesia, Ukraine and, for the first time, Madagascar.

In fact, this year enrolment has increased.

The students enter a level that best matches their English language skills. Most of the students enter in Level 2.

The program is designed to improve the students' English and allow them to understand Canadian culture.

Eileen Jen, 23, of Taiwan, an Office Administration student, said when she was in the ESL program last year she liked "best" the Canadian Culture class offered to Level 1 and 2 students.

"It taught you all about the Canadian culture and how to make maple syrup and other things."

Sugaya said she "really" likes the program.

"(The) reading and writing class is my favourite, and the teachers are very helpful."

Yamanashi said being in the ESL program helped prepare her for the Office Administration program by "improving my listening, reading and writing skills."

The ESL program has gone beyond just teaching the students. A computer work station has been set up in the Open Learning Centre, in Hennepin Hall, to allow students to work one on one to improve their English.

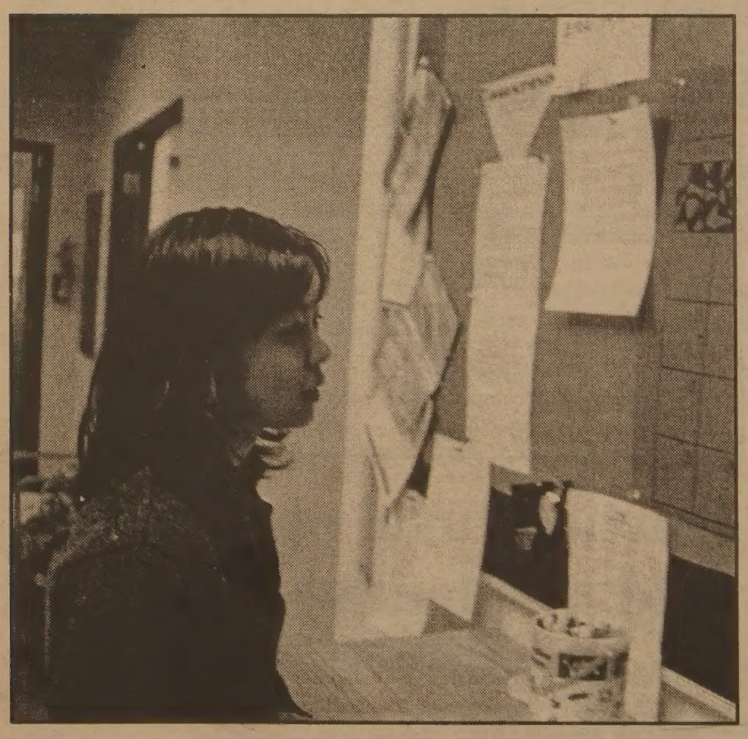
The Learning Resource Centre at the Welland campus also has ESL books for students to use at their convenience. Texts can be signed out as can audiotapes for in-library use.

ESL and international students have also visited Toronto.

Yamanashi liked that trip in February because "you could do whatever you wanted there for the day."

As the academic year is almost over, students have many memories of the places they've gone and the things they've done in Canada, which they will take back to their countries with them.

Susan Vandenboom, ESL co-ordinator, said the events planned for the students have been "successful."



Rie Nishijima, 22, of Japan, looks at the upcoming events on the bulletin board in S102, the International room.
Photo by Jackie Field

Speaker 'Black' listed

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — A woman Conrad Black says should be "horsewhipped" will be speaking at Brock University on March 30.

Ontario Public Interest Research Groups (OPIRG) Brock, the Council of Canadians (Niagara Chapter) and Brock University Departments of Sociology, Politics and the Environmental Policy Institute present noted columnist Linda McQuaig.

McQuaig is an award-winning columnist with the *National Post* and the author of several books including *Shooting the Hippo* and, most recently, *The Cult of Impotence: Selling the Myth of Powerlessness in the Global Economy.*

McQuaig has been described as "one of the most vibrant, effective and readable journalists in the country . . . provocative and fascinating."

She is so provocative, in fact, that Canadian press baron, Conrad Black, suggested on national radio that McQuaig should be "horsewhipped."

McQuaig plans to talk about The Cure for Impotence in the Global Economy: Democratic Viagra.

She says Canada's "cherished" social programs have been brutally slashed in the name of overcoming the deficit. Now that the deficit has disappeared, social programs are not being fully restored and high employment continues.

McQuaig will speak at the Playhouse Theatre, Brock University on March 30, at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Feeling important to someone

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

A local volunteer is providing a young child with the chance to experience life in new ways, through a close one-on-one relationship.

Kristin Kandyba, 21, of Welland, first became a Big Sister three years ago when she saw a newspaper advertisement for the agency.

Kandyba is a student at Brock University in St. Catharines, majoring in psychology. She said she thought volunteering as a Big Sister would be a good experience because of her interest in social work.

She was first matched with an older Little Sister, a few years in age younger than Kandyba, who had been on the waiting list for a while.

The relationship ended after one year because of the close age. Kandyba said the Little Sister felt she didn't need a Big Sister relationship in her life any longer.

Kandyba became a monthly volunteer until she was matched with her current Little Sister, Ashley Cowan.

Cowan, 11, also from Welland, has been a Little Sister to Kandyba for one and a half years.

Kandyba, who has three sibling sisters, decided to become a Big Sister because she was experienced in the sister-type of relationship and wanted to see someone grow up.

Being friendly, outgoing and concerned about other people are a few of the qualities she said a prospective Big Sister should possess, as well as being willing to be giving and to try new things.

Changes she has noticed in herself since becoming a Big Sister are that she sees the need. "It feels good to be important to someone else."

Kandyba said she wouldn't consider being a Big Sister to another Little Sister after her current one ends. Cowan will become 18 soon, the cut off age.

"It's a one-time, lifetime commitment," Kandyba said, adding another relationship with another Little Sister would just take away from her relationship with Cowan.

Kandyba said Cowan, who has two sisters who also have Big Sisters, is able to have someone to talk to one on one and not have to share her with anyone.

During the first year of their relationship Kandyba and Cowan got together at least once a week. Currently, because of Kandyba's school work, they get together once every two weeks.

Cowan, who had a two to three year wait before being matched to Kandyba, said she's a good Big Sister because "she takes her time to take me out."

Going to the Moving Theatre on Clifton Hill in Niagara Falls, a simulation ride showing movies of roller-coasters, planes and other thrilling rides, is their favorite activity together.

They said they enjoy going to movies, bowling and baking.

Asked why she feels an agency such as Big Sisters is important to the community, Kandyba said it offers young girls new activities, some that are pure fun and others that are educational.

She said it gives girls who come from large families or are only children a chance to have extra attention and a close relationship with someone outside their families.

Women more than 18 who'd like more information on becoming a Big Sister can contact the agency at the Seaway Mall in Welland. The phone number is (905) 732-2341.

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Eye On Niagara

Guess who's coming to dinner — Oscar!

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — The Academy Awards came to Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre Sunday night.

The gala event, the Academy Awards of Food and Wine in Niagara, was held in the foyer of Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre on the same night as the Academy Awards.

The event was to celebrate the four chefs, as well as the college's own J. Mark Hand, who participated in the showcases of chefs over the past year.

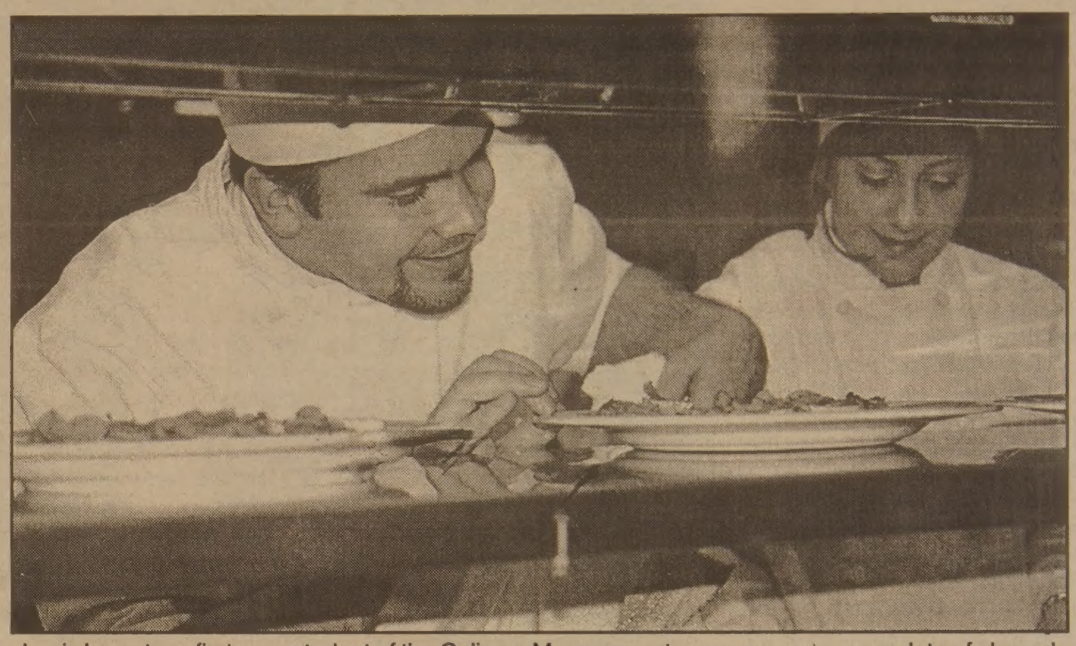
The evening in Niagara Falls started with a reception in the Kerrio Room, where guests had wine and hors-d'oeuvres.

About 120 guests were then seated at their tables in the foyer and served a five-course meal. Each course was prepared by the winner of the award, with students' assistance.

Winner of the best appetizer was Erik Peacock, of The Wellington Court Café in St. Catharines. The appetizer served was Terrine of Quebec foie gras with marinated chantarelles and Niagara ice wine glaze.

The best pasta award went to Claudio Mollica, of Casa Mia Ristorante & Bar in Niagara Falls. The pasta served was housemade rabbit and ricotta canelloni in a truffle-infused broth with rocket greens and roasted pine nuts.

The best fish appetizer award went to Hand, chef and food and beverage manager at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls. Roasted Chilean sea bass with mixed bean fricassee, Effingham tatsoi and a Riesling Buerre Blanc was served as the fish appetizer.



Louis Laporte, a first-year student of the Culinary Management program, prepares a plate of shaved pear with Gorgonzola on nut and cranberry toast. He is assisted by another student before Sunday night's gala event.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

Winner of the best entree was Michael Olson, of On the Twenty in Jordan. The entree served was Alberta beef in designer duds with a forest mushroom purse and spring turnip jewels.

The award for best dessert went to Virginia Marr, of Pillar and Post Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Served for dessert was chocolate espresso torte with pistachio gelato with candied pecans and Vineland peach coulis.

Also served was a three-year-old Balderson cheddar with a chardonnay-infused Rottier gooseberry relish.

Various wines served throughout the evening were provided by Chateau des Charmes, Cave Spring Cellars, Reif Estate Winery, Inniskillin, Thirty Bench Vineyard and Stoney Ridge.

Tickets for the gala event were $80 a person. Funds raised were for the students in programs at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

The Niagara News welcomes your opinions and story ideas.Send them to:
The Niagara News, P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ontario L3B 5S2

Worldwise bridges issues gap

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

While some people in Asia suffer from malnutrition, others in North America invest in diet plans. While Canadians benefit from plentiful social systems, children in the Dominican Republic bear the burden of sweatshops.

Worldwise International Awareness Centre — Niagara strives to bridge the gap between extremes in these and other social justice issues.

Worldwise, founded in St. Catharines in 1984, is one of 10 global education centres in Ontario.

It aims to promote understanding of the relationships between Canadians and the people of Central and South America, Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Caribbean by encouraging local action, respect, solidarity and co-operation between people of all cultures.

Myra Quinonez-Alfonso, global education co-ordinator, is one of the two full-time staff. She occupies her time co-ordinating community activities, presenting workshops at elementary schools, organizing fund-raising or educational events and representing the centre at functions.

"This is a unique centre," said Quinonez-Alfonso. "Its main effort is to strengthen the links between people in the South and North (hemispheres) and through that to achieve an understanding as to how interdependent we are on each other."

Worldwise links many social justice organizations.

Among the 60 plus community groups with Worldwise membership are the following: Ontario Professor Interest Research Group, Niagara Artists Centre, Human Rights Committee, Social Justice Committee, Campus Ministry, Oxford, Niagara New Commerce Service Alliance, Unicef, Community Dialogue on Racism and Development of International Education.

By joining efforts the organizations are better suited to meet their goals of awareness, prevention and education.

In the Worldwise office, six 10-foot-long shelves hold a collection of workshop booklets, videos, periodicals, newsletters and teachers' guides provided by various members.

These publications analyze food distribution processes, child-labour laws, sustainable agriculture, needs of refugees, health and disease cures and prevention methods, issues of equality of gender and race, condition of the rain forests and global economics.

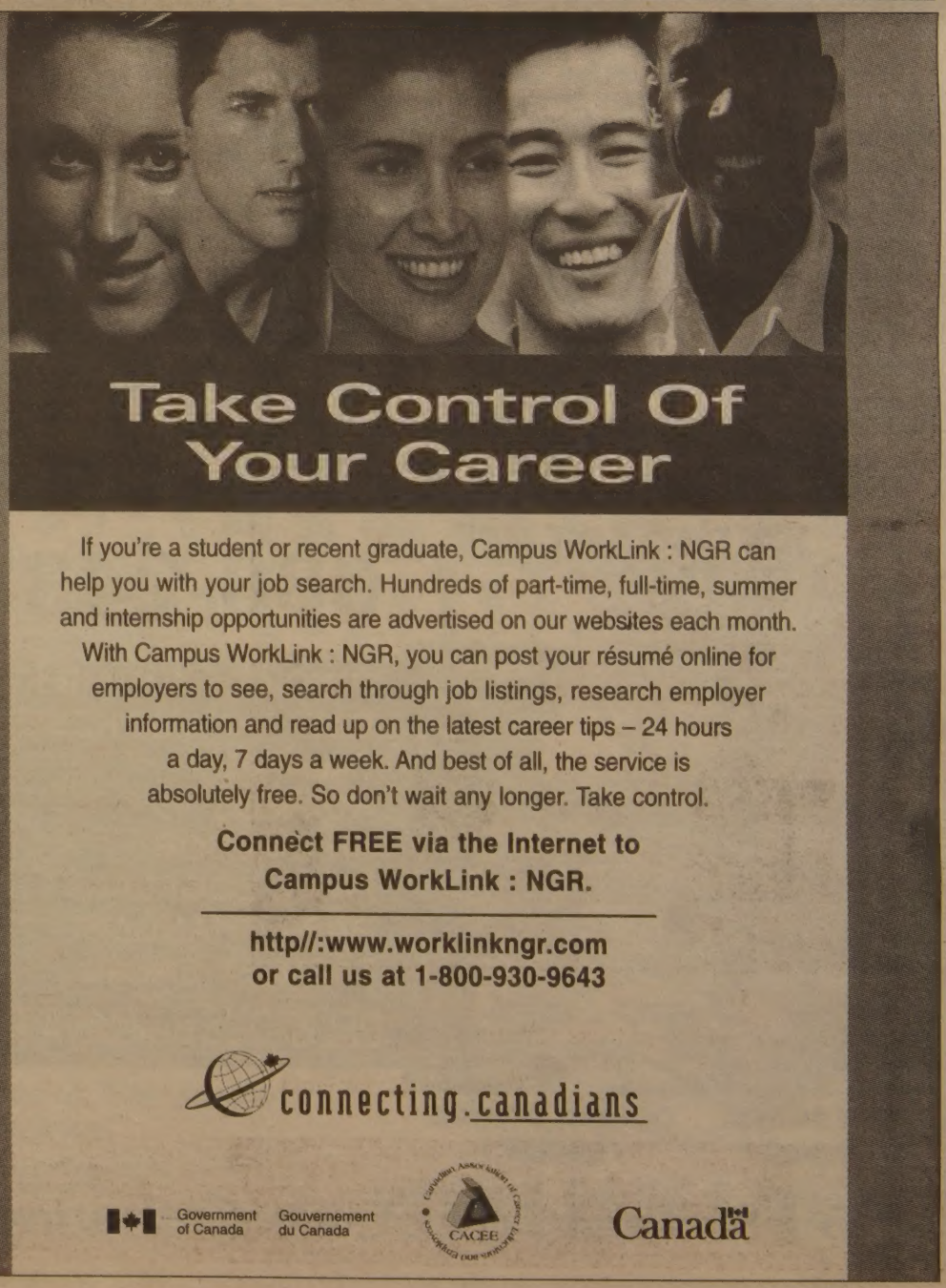
"All issues can be looked at on a global scale, not just geography and history," said Quinonez-Alfonso.

For many years, Brock University students from environmental or social services departments have chosen Worldwise as a co-op. They have designed workshops in their field that are then used in elementary and high schools.

The global education centre supports and participates in community awareness projects.

To honour the tradition of folklore and tales, a festival of Canadian stories, called Roots and Wings, will be held April 23 and 24.

Continued on page 24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Entertainment

'Heaven and Hell' home for Devil's Advocates

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

They're snarky, they're mean, and they're becoming very popular.

Ontario audiences know the Devil's Advocates for their weekly rants on CityTV's *Speaker's Corner*, where they abused those who appeared the previous week for little more than a minute of airtime and free T-shirts.

Contrary to popular belief, Andrew Currie and Albert Howell didn't start there. Both have endless theatre experience and worked together at Toronto's Second City.

Their background hasn't been picked up on by much of the general public. They say lots of people think they started their careers by showing up at the video booth one Halloween night wearing devil horns.

As an example, Currie cites a radio interview they had done earlier in the day. "The first question was 'so you guys started on Speaker's Corner?'"

The Advocates now have their own show on the Comedy Network, *Improv Heaven and Hell* (Saturday and Sunday at 10 p.m.).

They host the half-hour improv show which features a rotating roster of Canadian improvisors.

They've slowly built a fanbase outside Ontario of people who had virtually no exposure to the Devil's Advocates until the show hit the air in fall.

"Viewership really took off in January," says Howell, adding that it became the lead-in to *Dennis Miller Live* on Saturday nights.

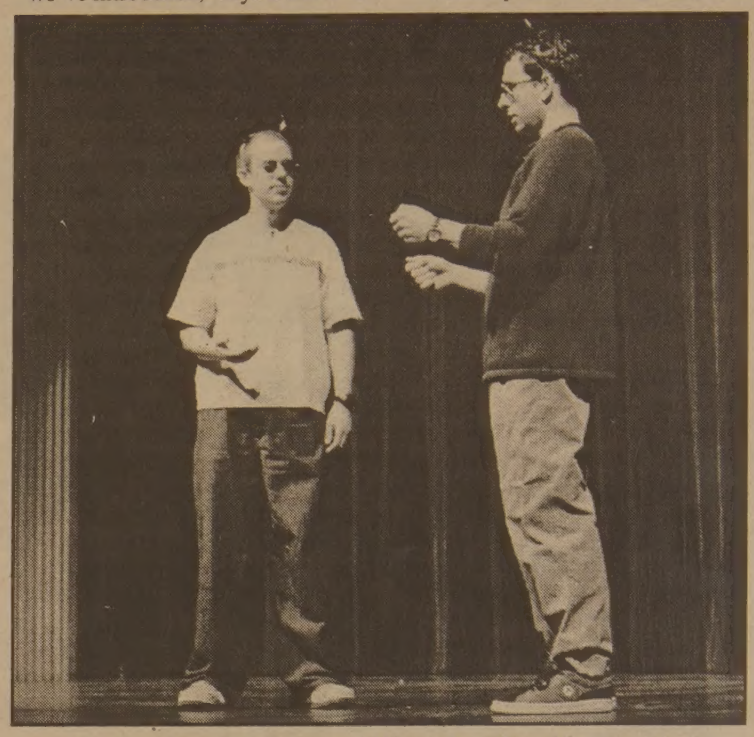
"They say it takes years to prepare for an overnight success. That's sort of been our story," says Currie.

They've gotten a lot of feedback from fans who've pointed out the one bit of irony in the Advocates' newfound success: despite Currie and Howell's extensive improv backgrounds, they haven't had many opportunities to show off their skills on television.

"People say they want to see more of us. More of us yackin'," says Howell. "I can't argue with that. More of me yackin' is something I'd like to see too".

"If we do more episodes of the show, we'll be able to build on what we've introduced," says Currie. "It may change a little bit."

The only chance to regularly see the Advocates strut their stuff is in a live performance.



Andrew Currie (left) and partner Albert Howell perform their last college show of the school year at Mohawk College in Hamilton on St. Patrick's Day.

Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

On almost any given evening in Toronto you can find Howell or Currie on a stage somewhere, and they travel to college and university campuses across the province for improv shows.

Their next major event is opening the Chicago Improv Festival in April.

They plan to perform a "long-form piece on the history of improv" which will trace the origins of improv and follow it to present-day.

Improv Heaven and Hell
Saturdays and Sundays,
10 p.m., Comedy Network

"It's similar to a show we did at Tim Sims Playhouse at Second City which got us our show on the Comedy Network," Currie says.

They will perform the piece with Colin Mochrie and Jack Mosshammer, both regulars on *Heaven and Hell*.

Howell says the show will still involve lots of improvisation.

"And we're still going to be snarky and mean."

Shaw goes for knockout at event on April 14

By MIKE EARWICKER
Staff Writer

Shaw is getting ready to rumble.

The Shaw Festival's largest fund-raising event, the Shaw Festival Boxing Evening, is already sold out. The event is to be held on April 14 in the Canadian Room at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. In the past the fund-raiser has raised more than $1.75 million for the theatre company. The major sponsor for the evening is Canadian Airlines, and other sponsors include Indian Motorcycles, Winston and Holmes, Inniskillin Wines Inc., and the Niagara Falls Brewing Company.

Seats for the event have to be purchased by the table. There are 10 seats to a table, at a cost of $4,000 to $5,000 depending on its location in relation to the ringside.

The main event is a 12-round bout for the World Boxing Federation Junior Middleweight World Title, which is vacant. The bout pits Fitzroy "The Whip" Vanderpool, a Kitchener native, head-to-head against Stephen Johnson of Brooklyn, N.Y. Vanderpool, the Canadian Welterweight Champion is 16-3-2 with 10 knockouts and Johnson is 25-7-1 with 17 knockouts.

"It's a unique event, a smoke-filled room full of men only. It's very politically incorrect," said Jamie King, individual giving associate at the Shaw Festival. King worked as security at last year's event and will work as a boxer roundup at this year's match. "Boxing and theatre, it's a culture clash."

The evening will also feature an eight-round semi-final between Byron Mackie, of Toronto, touching gloves with Ron Pasek, of Edmonton. Pasek is 8-8-2 with 4 knockouts while Mackie is 12-4-0 with two knockouts. Both fighters have stepped into the ring at the Boxing Evening in the past.

Spider Jones will be the master of ceremonies for the event. Jones is a member of the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame as a journalist and a colour commentator.

"There is a lot of drama at the beginning. One boxer wants the other boxer to go to the ring first," says John McCarthy, an audience service representative who is security for the evening. "It's a lot of fun."

Ding! Another round begins and another million is raised.

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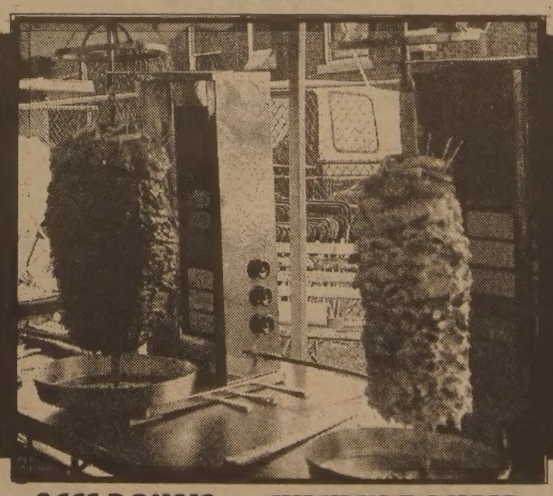

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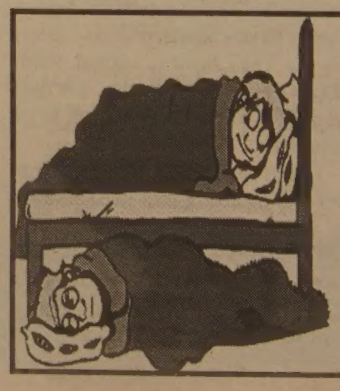


Niagara College is closed April 2 for Good Friday. Have a safe and happy Easter weekend. Classes resume Monday, April 5.

Entertainment

Romantic love survives despite lost hope in Message in a Bottle

'feeling sad and breathless'

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

How many times have you sent something in a balloon or in a bottle but never found out if someone actually got it?

Message In A Bottle, by Nicholas Sparks, is the second book he's written. The first, *The Notebook*, was a bestseller for over a year.

The 322-page novel puts the possibility of love back into the hearts of those who had lost all hope.

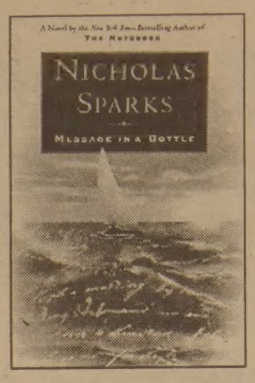
Theresa Osborne, a columnist for the *Boston Times*, finds a message in a bottle, while on vacation.

Anyone who's ever found anything like that would be curious as to who sent it.

When she opens it up, inside is a love letter a man named Garrett wrote to a woman named Katherine.

As a reporter, Osborne wants to find out more about these two, so she runs the letter in her column in the Times.

Her investigating continues and she finds two more letters, coming to the conclusion he lives in North Carolina. With careful planning she decides to find this mystery man who has captured her heart through his letters to another woman.



Blake teaches scuba diving in Wilmington, N.C., and is in his mid-thirties.

Osborne flies to Wilmington and soon enough catches a glimpse of the man who writes messages in a bottle.

As the two of them start to get to know one another, he has no idea she had received and read the letters he had written.

What will happen when he finds out?

They visit with one another a few times, and Blake meets Osborne's 12-year-old son, Kevin.

With thousands of miles between them, it's hard for the two of them to see each other.

When Blake finds out Osborne has his letters, you won't believe what happens.

The ending of the book will leave you sad and breathless, yet you can still feel the love Osborne has for Blake.

The book was written in 1998, and was published by Warner Books.

Construction crews start foundations for the new Cineplex Odeon $9-million complex at Niagara Square.
Photo by Sanja Novakovic

Cineplex Odeon expands theatres

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

The largest cinema in the area will be open at Niagara Square Shopping Centre by Christmas.

Cineplex Odeon's new $9-million cinema complex will span 62,000 square feet gross floor area and offer a seating capacity for 2,500 people.

The 10 auditoriums will range in size from 165 seats to an expansive 484 seats.

Ellen Kennedy, the Niagara Square general manager, said the new project is a good commitment for this area.

"Having 10 theatres in the area and being the state of the art, people will no longer have to travel to other regions for entertainment," she said.

Kennedy said the new project is good for the shopping centre as well, because it will attract more people and other retailers who are entertainment oriented, she said.

More than 60 full and part-time employment opportunities will be created when the theatre opens.

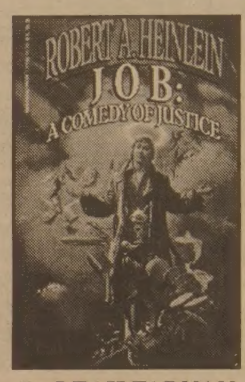
The cinema will have stadium seating, digital sound, hearing impaired listening devices with wireless headsets, two birthday party rooms and a video game room.

It will also have automated ticketing machines for convenient advance ticket purchasing.

The current theatre will be torn down when the new one opens.

The cinema will be at the intersection of the Queen Elizabeth Way and McLeod Road.

Book worth the buy



By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Robert A. Heinlein's *JOB: A Comedy of Justice* is sure to please.

The book, published by Ballantine Books, is creative, imaginative and intelligent.

Heinlein will entertain and surprise readers with this book, which keeps the reader guessing and theorizing from start to finish.

The book spent 11 weeks on the *New York Times* best seller list and for good reason.

The story has strong characters, is well written and has a plot that is incredibly well developed and provides non-stop excitement.

The plot is a modernization of the story of Job, whose patience was tried by God to see if Job's loyalty in God would stand up to the test.

This is one of those books you won't want to put down.

Heinlein is an accomplished science-fiction writer. His works stand as testament to his skill.

Some of his other books include *Farnham's Freehold, Stranger in a Strange Land* and *Methusaleh's Children.*

This book is worth the buy as you'll want to revisit it in years to come.

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Sports

Professional soccer league needed

Soccer needs support

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

In the 1980s, Canadian soccer reached its peak, the Canadian team having qualified for the 1986 Mexico World Cup, but today the sport is in decline.

According to Sandro Perruzza, Niagara College's successful men's indoor team coach, one of the major reasons for Canadian soccer's dire straits is the virtual non-existence of a professional soccer league in the country.

"Compared to hockey, which has three, soccer barely has one, and the one I'm referring to is the National Soccer League, which is still not a fully fledged professional league because it's a semi-pro league," he said.

"As a result, there's no way to channel the kids from the recreation soccer leagues up to the higher leagues in the game."

The three hockey leagues he named were the National Hockey League, the Ontario Hockey League and the American Hockey League.

He criticized the sports fans' attitude as being another reason why Canadian soccer has regressed over the last eight years.

"There are all these hockey leagues around in Canada but yet the sports fans can't support a good professional soccer league program," Perruzza said.

He said Canadian fan support is defined as fans going out to see their favourite athletes compete in popular Canadian sports like hockey, lacrosse, football, baseball, basketball and volleyball. It's one of the chief reasons why these athletes are paid huge sums of money to perform.

He stated many Canadian sports fans spend hours glued to their television sets watching the best international soccer around, such as the Italian Series A League matches and the English Premier League, but they wouldn't go out and support their own domestic soccer league program.

Perruzza said another reason for Canadian soccer's decline is that there are too many professional sports being played simultaneously.

Consequently, the interest and attention of many Canadian sports fans are diluted by hockey, baseball, volleyball and basketball and they're unable to really focus on following soccer.

"With all of these sports going on, some sports fans can't afford to support every professional sports team, so they go with the more established ones like football, baseball, volleyball and hockey."

He said, as a result, soccer is ignored and "left out in the cold."

"We had a professional league here in the 1980s called the North American Soccer League (NASL) but it folded because the fans weren't supporting the teams."

He stated some of the Canadian teams that played in this league were the Vancouver 76ers, Toronto Blizzard and the Montreal Manic.

This league also had some of the greatest players the game has ever produced, such as Brazil's Pele, Germany's Franz Beckenbauer and the late Bobby Moore of England.

He said Canada can't hope to have a strong, viable, organized Canadian professional soccer league with only five of six teams included, the case after the NASL collapsed.

"If the sports fans of Canada want a professional soccer league, then they have to be patient and support the developmental framework which ultimately goes into creating a world class soccer league," he said.

Another crucial reason, he cited, is that there isn't a distinctive Canadian style of playing.

Perruzza said there are some Canadian professional players who have been forced to earn a living in other soccer-mad countries. They've been learning different styles of playing but when World Cup qualifying matches come around the coaches expect them to mesh into a cohesive playing unit in the shortest possible time before they take to the field.

He complimented The Sports Network for consistently showing Canadian sports fans all of Canada's World Cup qualifying games over the years.

"They do support national soccer but you don't see it with other media corporations, like many of the newspapers," he said.

Perruzza said, in his opinion, this lack of support for soccer by most of Canada's media businesses was because it isn't profitable.

He stated soccer doesn't help sell newspapers, which is what the media business is all about. The owners of the media corporations believe it's unprofitable to send reporters to different parts of the country or around the world to cover soccer games when the expense isn't going to increase circulation.

Perruzza ended by expressing his hope that one day the sport would become strong again in Canada.

He said he hoped children would keep on playing the sport and that good coaches would assist by developing a national framework to strengthen the game.

Intramural season a success and fun for all

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

Not everyone can be a varsity athlete, but Niagara College offers an opportunity for everyone to be involved in sports.

The college's athletic department has implemented an excellent intramural athletic program that gives students a chance to let their athletic abilities shine.

throughout the year at the gym in the Mackenzie building at the Welland campus.

"We've only had minimal promotions for it — a corkboard at the gym, banners throughout the school and signs in residence," says Chatterton.

Even with the minimal promotion, the year has been a "success" and "it's only getting better."

'We've only had minimal promotions for it — a corkboard at the gym, banners throughout the school and signs in residence.'

— Laura Chatterton

Laura Chatterton, assistant athletic co-ordinator, has been overseeing most of the intramural athletics.

The year started with co-ed indoor soccer and then moved on to ice hockey and basketball and concludes with ball hockey, which is being played now.

The intramurals have been running during student activity times on Tuesdays and Thursdays

The department had an average of 80 to 100 students signing up for each of the different activities.

Not only did students play, they also refereed.

"All our referees are paid positions and I think that we need more promotion of that," she says.

There was a problem finding people to do the ice hockey officiating, but it was taken care of quickly.

Winners of each of the various sports get T-shirts to recognize them as intramural champions. The program is a great way to have some fun and meet new people, especially for first year students and students new to the college.

"The first-years have been great. It builds a good core for next year."

Next year can only get better.

March madness hit Niagara College with the tip-off of the intramural basketball championships last week.

Photo by Barbara Doddy

Don't forget . . .

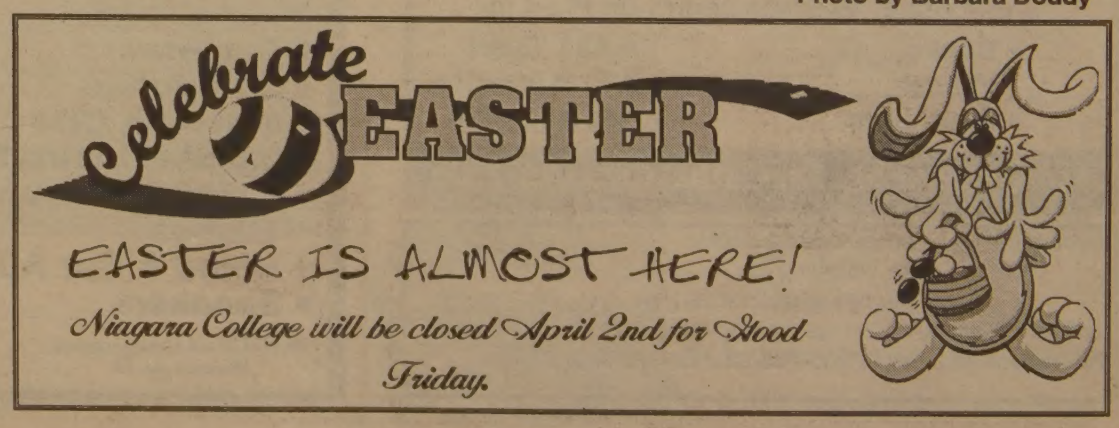
By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Here's a reminder to all Niagara College athletes and coaches. The annual athletic banquet to be held at the After Hours pub on March 30 at the Welland campus.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:30.

Immediately following the dinner will be the awards ceremonies.

Among the presentations will be male and female athletes of the year, male and female freshmen of the year, as well as team most valuable players and numerous certificates and letters to be given to Niagara College athletes.



Sports

Remembering a Formula One legend

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The date was May 1, 1994. The place was Imola in the small country of San Marino located within Italy's boundaries.

On this day, nearly five years ago, the life of the greatest driver in the history of Formula One (F1) auto racing came to an unexpected and premature end.

Ayrton Senna had joined the Williams Racing Team just months earlier in the hope of winning his fourth driving championship. Williams was on the verge of becoming the best team. With the best driver behind the wheel, the sky was the limit.

The Brazilian was in the lead, with the hope of winning his first race of the season after two disappointing races to start the campaign.

After crossing the start/finish straight ahead of rival Michael Schumacher, Senna's car headed toward the Tamburello curve, a long left-handed corner, which one lap earlier had seen the Williams send sparks flying for no apparent reason.

It was a curve Senna had taken hundreds of times before without incident. However, this time it all went wrong.

Instead of taking the curve, the car veered to the right, off the circuit and into the barriers.

Before hitting the wall, Senna had slammed on the brakes, reducing the speed of the Williams from 180 miles an hour to 130. It didn't matter.

Senna's death was a tragedy

The impact dislodged the right front tyre and attached suspension arm, the wall launching it towards Senna's head, inflicting a fatal wound.

It was a very tragic weekend in Imola. The preceding day had witnessed the death of Austrian driver Roland Ratzenberger in the qualifying session.

It was the first time in 12 years an F1 Grand Prix event had experienced a fatality.

There have been a number of inquiries and trials in the past five years, all trying to find someone or something to blame for the death of the sport's biggest superstar.

Nothing has ever been resolved.

I believe it's time the governing body of the sport give up its quest to find the reasons for this tragedy.

The car is still in San Marino, locked in an impound lot and deteriorated to the point where it can no longer be discovered if the accident was caused by man or machine.

Senna's death was a tragedy. There's no mistaking that. Whether it could have been prevented will never be known. Maybe it's better if it wasn't known, but the sad saga should be put to rest.

It has been five years since the world witnessed the tragic death of the greatest driver in history.

Maybe it's finally time to let Senna rest in peace.

European import a leader on the ice

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

In the past 10 years, the National Hockey League (NHL) has seen a great invasion of players from Europe.

There had been several highly skilled players from Europe before this invasion, players like Borje Salming, Jari Kurri and Peter Stastny.

However, in 1989, Sergei Makarov became the first player from the Soviet Union to play in the NHL when he joined the Calgary Flames. Along with rapid league expansion, this paved the way for numerous Europeans to come across the ocean to pursue their dream.

Players like Sergei Fedorov, Pavel Buré and Teemu Selanne came over with much hype and played like future hall of famers until either injury or contract squabbles leveled off their hunger. All three are still all-star calibre players, yet none have dominated the game for as long as Pittsburgh Penguins' captain Jaromir Jagr.

Jagr came to the NHL in 1990 from the Czech Republic and has been playing like an all-star ever since. After playing with Mario Lemieux for many years, many experts predicted Jagr's demise after Lemieux's retirement.

Jagr has stayed on top of his game

However, Jagr has stayed on top of his game and has improved, developing into more than just another hyped-up, overrated, European speed-demon. He has proved he can be a leader and has done so for the Penguins.

While it is correct to assume Pittsburgh is not a likely Stanley Cup contender, Jagr's play and leadership have allowed the team to remain in the playoff chase. A top seed for the playoffs is a possibility.

Jagr continues to show grace and style on the ice. Whether it's blowing past a defenseman on an end-to-end rush, rifling the puck into the top corners of the net with a blistering wrist-shot or even scoring after he's been knocked to the ice, he has continued to amaze fans and players alike.

Jagr is, without a doubt, the best European hockey player in the NHL. He is on his way to winning another scoring championship, which in all likelihood will not be his last.

If he continues to play at the level he is at, there is no telling what kind of numbers he will put up.

However, after all is said and done, when his playing career is over, Jagr will leave the NHL as the greatest hockey player ever to come from Europe.

Students tee up for scholarships

Foundation has awarded $775,000

By JOE ROWLING
Staff Writer

Students can now tee up for spare cash.

The Canadian Golf Foundation (CGF) provides financial assistance through scholarships and awards for promising junior golfers, landscape architects and turfgrass agronomists. Assistance is provided for students' tuition, books, residence and other related expenses.

The CGF was created in 1979 as an initiative of the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) to help members access research materials. The CGF established its academic scholarship program in 1982 and has since awarded $775,000 in scholarships.

In late 1995, the CGF was made separate from the RCGA in order to focus solely on helping future supporters of the game.

Each year the top graduate student in the scholarship program is presented with the Jack Nicklaus Award for Academic Excellence, which is presented by Nicklaus himself.

Interested students can apply for the award by going to the Learning Resource Centre at the Welland campus where they can obtain a package with information and application forms. Applications must be received by June 30. Late applications will not be considered.

Next Edition April 9

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Eye On Niagara

Art students train to design future

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

Easy accessibility for the disabled to the art and design facilities at Niagara College is like a magic key to the learning process.

Outside the Black Walnut building at the Welland campus, a sign directs people inside to the cafeteria. In that building, they'll discover the classrooms and studios of the Art and Design Fundamentals—Graphic Design Production program.

Students are taught the fundamental principles of design through two- and three-dimensional drawing, visual perception, illustration, life drawing, screen reproduction, typographic skills and computer applications for graphic design.

Howard Paton, a part-time handlettering and screen printing instructor in the program, said, "We start out with the core, with the basics, with the fundamentals and get all the students up to speed. The students then find out where their strengths and weaknesses are, and they branch out from there into fashion graphic design, computers or possibly commercial signage."

Graduates of the program will also have the training to seek employment in illustration, advertising and marketing.

"You might not realize it but everything around you has been designed by an artist," Paton said. He adds "Whether it's the ergonomics of it, or the look of it, everything you touch has been viewed and designed by an artist. It's incredible. It's really a vibrant field, it's an exciting field."

Paton and two other part-time instructors, James Gielfeldt and Mark Ricker, have spent a lot of their own time trying to improve the program. All are former students of the art program. They, along with the other staff members, have also worked to have the facilities updated. Their hopes were partly fulfilled when some refurbishing was completed last summer.

"A lot of our equipment is very old in here," Paton said. "The only way we can get parts is to scavenge and scrape, and that's what we do. A lot of our equipment is held together with bailing wire and duct tape. We're very self-sufficient over here and we're one of the places in the college that no one knows about.

"Our co-ordinator, Ken Cosgrove, is doing wonders," Paton said. "When we identify problems and needs, Ken takes care of it right away. If we need it, if it benefits the program, he's all for it."

> *'Anything can be done.'*
>
> *— Julie Grand*

Ricker said, "Obviously, being students coming to the program, we've got a unique point of view because we saw elements that we weren't happy about when we were students — elements that we felt should be improved upon and changed. And now being here in the situation we're in, we have a chance to make those things happen, make it a better course."

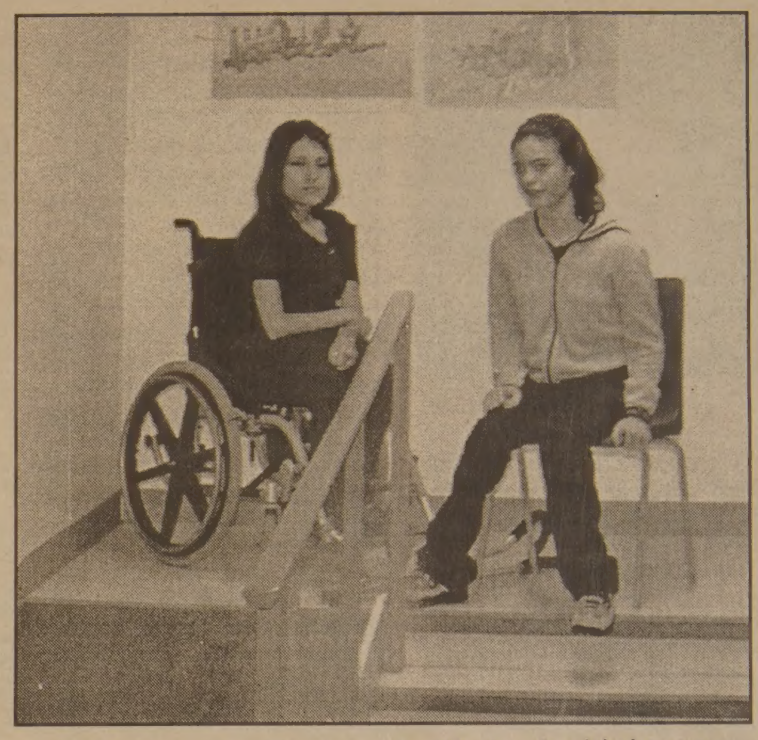
He added, "There's still a lot of work to be done here, especially with the number of students. We all put in a lot of our own free time and sometimes it gets a little frustrating because that seems to go unnoticed. I'm not just talking money-wise hours that we won't get reimbursed for but as far as someone saying thank you, that kind of thing. We've all got businesses on the side that we kind of put on hold to put in extra hours here to make this program work."

One of the improvements at the facility is accessibility for students with disabilities. Two women with disabilities are enrolled in the program. Julie Grand has cerebral palsy involving impaired muscle control, and Sandy Rusic has spinal muscular atrophy, a neuromuscular disease.

Grand, 20, of Welland, started the art program in September 1998.

"I think what I'm doing is great," she said. "It has really opened my eyes as to what I can do. I learned a lot of art in high school but when I came here, I found that each thing I've done has gotten better and better. It's only the first year and I feel so positive. Anything can be done. All the teachers here have been a great help." Grand said she is interested in the advertising field as a career.

Gielfeldt works exclusively with Grand as tutor through the Centre for Students with Disabilities office (CSD) at the Welland campus. Asked his feelings about instructing Grand, he said, "It's really rewarding. She's responsive and she's got a good work ethic. I've been giving her extra assignments on top of the homework she's doing and she's getting those done as well as the work she's supposed to do. She never complains. Her attitude is incredible."



Sandy Rusic and Julie Grand are beside the wheelchair ramp at the Black Walnut building.

Photo by J.W. Brown

Asked about Grand's artwork, Gielfeldt said, "She pays attention to the details. She looks at the highlights, the darks and the shadows. The composition is laid out well."

Rusic, 20, also started the art program in September 1998.

"I thought I was starting into something that I never thought I would enjoy because in high school I was mostly into music but I really love it." She said she feels her artwork has improved considerably since she started last fall. She said her special interests are letterheads for advertising, signs for billboards and logo design. She said the improvements in the area for the disabled (buttons to open doors and ramps) are convenient. Rusic's instructors also built her a special desk for wheelchair accessibility.

"My instructors are wonderful, they're very helpful. If I need something to be done, they'll do it for me."

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Eye On Niagara

Student researches native plant rituals

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — Teri Sherwood wants to bring tradition and plant usage to the forefront again.

Sherwood, a second-year Horticultural Technician program student at the Glendale campus of Niagara College, was hired by the Aboriginal Access Office to implement Phase One of the Aboriginal Garden Project.

She started the program in January 1998 and says, "It's the express route, doing four terms in just over a year."

Sherwood's roots are with the Oneida of the Thames (First Nations) in Southwold, London, Ont., but she has lived in Wainfleet all of her life.

Since being hired, she's been doing groundwork and researching natives of the Niagara peninsula.

"I'm looking at traditions, values, customs, that sort of thing."

She says she's looking into other aboriginal gardens for advice and ideas on their methods.

"Next, I'll be getting into the native plant use—what plants are used for what purposes, and that sort of thing. I have a couple of very good people sharing their knowledge with me on that."

Those advisers are Wendy Loevenmark, a landscape architect with the Glendale campus, and Walter Kehm, a professor of landscape and architecture at the University of Guelph.

"There are plenty of gardens using native plants, meaning native to this area, but not significant to the native people," says Sherwood, "so this is kind of new, cutting edge and mainstream. It'll be pretty exciting to have this at the Glendale campus."

Sherwood graduates in April and says she'd like to continue working for the garden if the funding permits it.

"It would be nice to be kept on after doing the groundwork. It would be nice to continue to the next step."

She says this project is interesting because it's so different from what she's been taught in college.

"In my horticultural training, we talk about residential designing for the homeowner, not designing something so vast. This is more like a public garden."

She says some of the design work isn't taught in college. "It's just such a larger scale" with many other issues to consider.

TERI SHERWOOD

"I know how to design someone's walkway, but when you're designing a public garden, the scale is so much bigger."

She says the input from a lot of people has been a "great" source of help. Sources include people at the Native Friendship Centre in Fort Erie and the Niagara Regional Native Centre located on Taylor Road across from the Glendale campus on the other side of the Queen Elizabeth Highway.

"We're hoping that this can not only be a learning centre for the Aboriginal students, but for all students to learn the traditions and the history of plant use. This could be a stepping-stone to learning for everybody."

Sherwood says people coming to visit the Native Centre will want to see the gardens as well and "hopes" it will turn into a tourist attraction. She says the gardens will include plants indigenous to this area.

"That's always fascinated me as well."

Sherwood studied forestry at the Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and received her diploma as a forestry technician before coming to Niagara. She says she'll always be working with the soil. "I can't wait for spring."

She says it's traditional in her because in years gone by, the men used to go out fishing and women worked the soil, grew the crops and took care of the children.

She says the landscaping trend now is to use native plants. They're a benefit because of the birds they attract and feed.

"The berries are not only food for the birds, but also the birds are a benefit to us. Everything is linked together."

She says the garden will be growing a lot of medicinal plants, a topic which she is now researching. The popular ones are echinacea, a North American native plant although not native to the Niagara peninsula.

"Some natives use sweet grass, also called Holy Grass. It is one of the sacred plants and burned in ceremonies to communicate more clearly with the Great Spirit."

She says it's used as a purifier. Braided sweet grass signifies Mother Earth. Each section of the braid represents something different: mind, body and spirit. She says the scent is enhanced when it's wet or burned.

Burning sage is used for cleansing the spirit.

Indian tobacco, not to be confused with farmed tobacco for cigarettes, is an annual native species plant used in a daily prayer of thankfulness.

She says the tobacco isn't smoked, but placed as an offering in the fire or on the ground during prayer rituals and ceremonies.

"You trade it or give it away. It's a gift from the Creator to be shared. It's not meant to be sold."

She says she plans re-create the ceremonies traditionally done during planting.

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Eye On Niagara

Poor promo + low turnout = dollar deficit

Event proceeds fail to cover costs, leaving organizer in the red

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

A Niagara College student is $680 in the hole after putting on a fashion show for charity at Front 54 in Thorold.

"I'm in the hole big time," said Linden Barrett, 21, a Niagara College second-year Human Relations program student and president of Change the Future.

Barrett spent the past three months organizing the show, which was held on March 17. He said because the show was done for a charity, the United Way, he must make a donation despite not making enough money to cover the costs.

"I will try to donate $250 from my own private budget," he said, adding, "I don't even know if I can afford that."

The show made $750 from admissions, he said. However, he adds this won't cover all the costs, which included $345 for stage rental, $235 for a U-Haul, $600 for a rental van for two weeks and a large dry-cleaning bill.

Barrett said the lack of attendance may have been because of a lack of promotion. He said last year the models sold their own tickets, so, by word of mouth alone, they got a large turnout.

Barrett said he was happy to see the 150 people who did come out. He said the show, for the most part, was a success as the store managers were happy with the way their clothing was presented.

"I want to thank all the models and I want to thank Gerald Dixon, the director, and Brigita Kuzma, the clothing director, who did a great job," said Barrett.

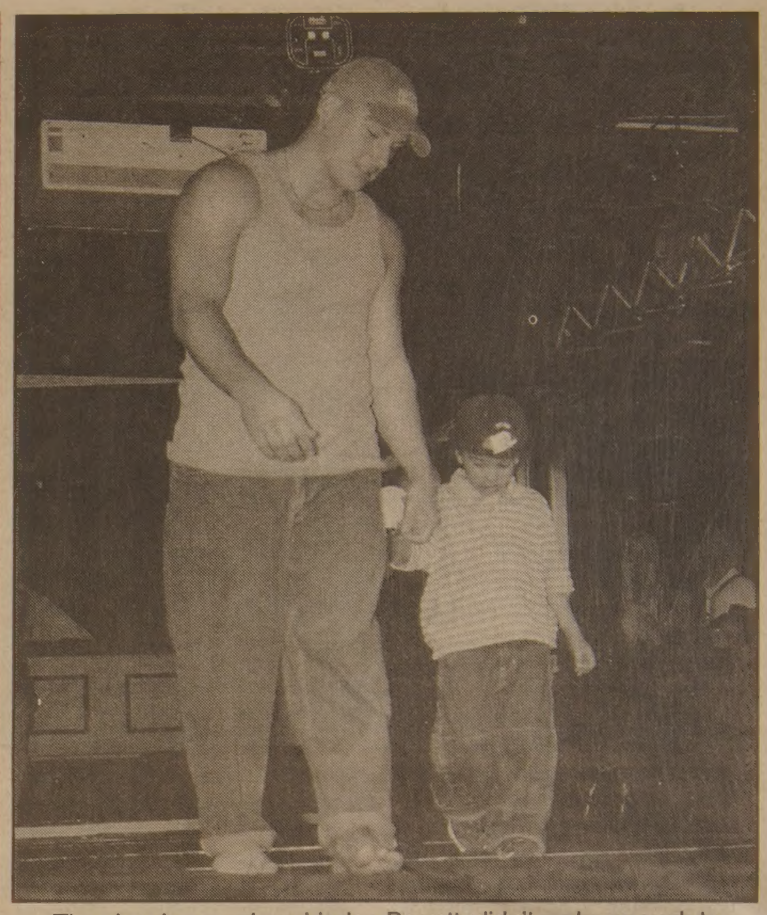
Barrett said the show itself went really well. Some models may get modeling contracts to work in Japan for the summer through Michael Flynn Photography Studio, a modeling agent in St. Catharines.

He said when the show ended people kept asking the same question: why do you do this show when you don't get the appreciation you deserve?

"I had to tell them this one simple thing. It is good to see the models get a better feeling of self-esteem from this show," he said, adding it was also a learning experience for Dixon and Kuzma.

"I've done this for two years in a row, and I'm glad I did it with such a good group of people for my last year."

The second Change the Future Fashion Show was held on March 17 at Front 54 in Thorold. Attendance was poor at the event with 150 coming out to see the latest in fashion.



The show's organizer, Linden Barrett, didn't make enough to cover the costs of the charity event.

Photos by Sean Coffey

Adult establishments inundating neighbourhoods

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

There's no escaping it.

Whether it's in the classified section of the daily newspaper or on late night television, the adult entertainment industry is a dominant presence in daily life and in communities across the world.

In cities and towns across North America, politicians and citizens are fighting to reclaim their neighbourhoods.

In New York City, well-known for its night life and high crime rate, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is leading the crackdown on such establishments.

In October 1995 he implemented a zoning resolution banning adult-use establishments from operating within 500 feet of a residential or school district. Since the provisions were introduced, several businesses have been closed because of violating the regulations.

"Sex shops destroy neighbourhoods," said Giuliani, in a press release. He said the closures allow families to feel comfortable working in the area, enjoy cleaner streets and benefit from a more family-oriented and livable neighbourhood.

Giulaini said when the plan is fully implemented, only 29 of the 177 sex shops that existed in 1993 will remain open.

Closer to home in Niagara Falls, Ont., Mayor Wayne Thomson said it's "very difficult" to stop such establishments from opening.

"If you go to all the corner stores in every community, you walk into them and you can buy triple-x magazines and videotapes," he said.

Recently Niagara Falls has seen an increase in the number of body rub parlours being issued operating licenses.

On Jan. 12, 1998, out of concern expressed by Niagara Falls city council, Thomson sent a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Al Leach asking the province to declare body rub parlours illegal.

The minister responded saying he'd discuss the issue with his cabinet colleagues, but in the interim informed Thomson of special authorities under the Municipal Act to license and regulate such businesses, including regulating the areas in which they may operate.

On Oct. 23, 1998, sensing the province's reluctance to make these establishments illegal, Thomson informed Leach of council's passing a motion calling for the province to provide the necessary tools to assist municipalities in prohibiting body rub parlours from their communities.

Leach replied that in view of the inter-jurisdictional complexities and the extent of power given to the municipalities, the ministry had no plans to change the legislation regarding the issue.

In Welland, a local business owner who operates in an area where adult establishments are located said they "pull down the whole area.

"They also bring other establishments that are not all that desirable," said the merchant, adding, "I don't think it's the strippers, it's the drinkers that are generally worse."

Another business owner said although business has not decreased, she has received comments from customers concerning the establishments. "I can't say there are any (crimes) in direct relation (to the businesses)," she said.

"It's an embarrassment to the city. They (the police) know there's illegal things going on down there. They're just turning a blind eye to it."

She said she has been tempted to knock on the door of a particular establishment "just to see what is going on in there," adding she feels her safety is threatened.

"There needs to be an investigation."

Both business owners asked their names be withheld because of safety concerns.

Welland Mayor Dick Reuter said he's personally not "very" supportive of the businesses, but council hasn't taken a position on the issue.

He said the area hasn't seen an increase in crime since the openings and suggests the crime rate in the Niagara Region has decreased.

"Welland council has nothing on the agenda as of yet," he said.

Attempts to receive a comment on the issue from owners of adult establishments proved unsuccessful.

Worldwise offers educational, community services

Continued from page 17

Children and adults can enjoy Canadian folklore on Friday, April 23, in the Mills Room at the St. Catharines Public Library on Church Street.

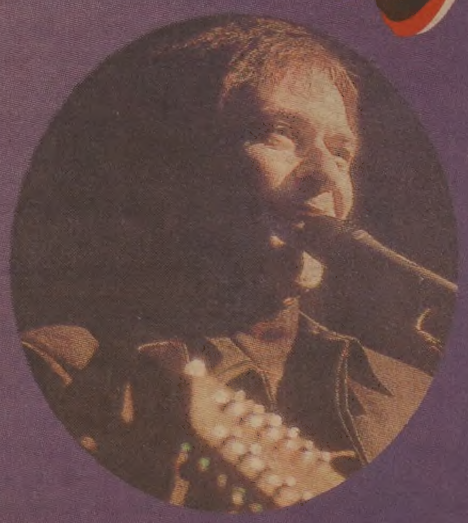
On Saturday, April 24, there will be two workshops at 4145 Bridgeport Dr., Jordan Station, Ont. That evening a concert will be held at St. John's Anglican Church in Jordan.

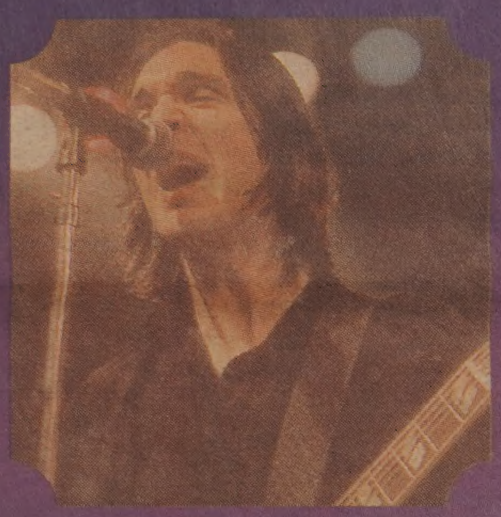
Worldwise also supported "Fashioning Freedom" on March 9. This event, sponsored by Ten Days for Global Justice, consisted of a workshop and fashion show focused on strategies to improve clothing sweatshop conditions.

Fiesta Cultural is an anti-racism project using art as a venue to illustrate equality. Worldwise sponsored the Latin American group in 1994 and may have them return this year.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Worldwise, or in becoming involved with its efforts, can contact Quinonez-Alfoso at (905) 641-2525 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Riding the Riff III





A Supplement to the Niagara News, produced by Year Two Journalism-Print students of Niagara College, Welland, Ontario. (1999)

Riding the Riff III

PAUL ANTONIO DESTINED FOR GREATNESS

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

With talent like this he's destined to stand among the best in Canadian music.

Paul Antonio, 24, is a singer/songwriter born and raised in Niagara Falls. His musical style is a soothing mix of folk, country and pop.

It's a mix he attributes to the influence of such artists as Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty and Jackson Browne.

Besides two guitar and vocal lessons while in high school, Antonio said he's mostly a self-taught musician.

He said he started playing guitar in Grade 10, but adds even at a very young age he was playing air guitar while jumping around on his parents' couch, so music has always been a part of his life.

"Music means everything to me."

Antonio has a bachelor of science in engineering degree from the University of Waterloo in Kitchener. This, as his bio states, is the result of a promise he made to his parents that he'd get a degree before seeking musical stardom.

However, throughout university Antonio often sang at parties and local pubs to make ends meet.

Now that he's finished university he has more time to focus on his music.

His soon to be released debut album, **Take Me Home**, was produced in Victoria, B.C., where he moved after graduating university. However, he said, for economic reasons he returned to Niagara about eight months ago.

His experiences in the west were a big influence in his song writing for this album, he said.

The title track, *Take Me Home*, was written at a time when Antonio said he was missing his home in Ontario.

He describes this song as the "best song on the album . . . best song I've ever written."

Island Fever is another tune with western influence on the album. The song title makes it obvious. This is a song about someone living on Vancouver Island for the first time.

Not all of this album is about the west though. *Gambling House* is a song he wrote about the building of the casino in Niagara Falls. It's a sort of entertaining message about the good and bad points of gambling.

"I always try to write a tune so it means something to somebody," explained Antonio.

His songs are stories from his life and the lives of people in general, he said.

Paul Antonio with his guitar in the basement of Yanks Old Niagara.
Photo by Sean Coffey

Superhero Crush is a tune about a guy and girl who have lost the spark in their relationship. Like all of Antonio's songs, the lyrics are full of meaning. The blend of harmonica, fiddle and guitar drive home the mood of the lyrics.

However, not all of his songs are of a serious nature. *Semolina* sounds like a love song, but it actually has an interesting twist. Just what it is I won't say. Listen to it yourself and see if you can figure it out.

Antonio describes himself as being "really into" the Canadian music scene. He adds that winning a Juno for him would be a higher honour than winning a Grammy. A Juno are Canadian music awards while a Grammy is American.

The album **Take Me Home** is a nice mix of classical guitar, mandolin, fiddle and harmonica. Many of the tunes are in harmony as Antonio said he likes the effect this style brings to his songs.

"I'm my own worst critic," Antonio explains. However, he adds he's really happy with this album.

Being an engineer, Antonio said he often tries to make a science of his music.

"I try to get it down to a science, but it's not. It's an art."

As for the future, Antonio said he has no plans to quit his engineering job so far, but he does admit he'd enjoy a career in music. He said he'd like to do a coffee house tour of the west coast just going from resort to resort playing for people in cafes and coffee houses.

If you're into this style of music you can often catch Antonio at Yanks Old Niagara located at 5008 Centre St. just up from Clifton Hill in Niagara Falls, or you can call Yanks Old Niagara at (905) 354-7611 to find out when and where he might be playing.

Catch Antonio at Al Dentes on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls on April 9.

Cumber Haze

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Cumber Haze got their name out of the dictionary.

"Cumber," from cumbersome meaning troublesome and "haze" meaning dimness.

The Welland-based band Cumber Haze say they have many different musical influences.

Band members Tim Layne, 18, guitar, Ralph Atkinson, 19, guitar, Mike Tevesco, 20, singer, Shawn Ravenda, 19, bass, Rick Stubbins, 19, guitar, Colin Knowles, 18, keyboards, and Adam Saitti, 18, drums, are all of Welland. They name bands such as Pink Floyd, Sepultura, Rage Against the Machine, Tool, The Grateful Dead and Marilyn Manson as strong influences.

Tevesco says he listens to "everything and anything."

Cumber Haze classifies the music they play as "very aggressive and hard core."

Atkinson says their music is "something I could never show my parents."

Some of Cumber Haze's music relates to drugs, pedophiles and violence towards women.

"No parent in the world would like us," Tevesco adds.

Carve My Ass and *Crotch* are examples of song titles.

Cumber Haze has been around for four years. The current members have been together since the summer; they went to high school together.

Atkinson says he likes jazz and classical music. "We play heavy music together but when I go home heavy music has nothing to do with what I listen to."

Cumber Haze says all the personalities in the band are "very diverse."

Atkinson says, "We're all equally as savage."

In defence of Cumber Haze's aggressive lyrics Tevesco says since they're all are "from Welland . . . there is a lot of problems in Welland."

Atkinson says, "I get a lot of my frustrations with this band . . . What I do on stage has nothing to do with how I am in real life." He says he plays a character on stage and "always seems to be angry."

Cumber Haze recorded a CD recently in Strathroy, Ont., at a friend's studio. It's almost complete.

Cumber Haze has played at the Fratt House in St. Catharines and they say it was one of their best shows.

They say they didn't have set gigs but "we like to play anywhere, anytime," says Stubbins.

Atkinsons says, "It offends me that people have a hard time listening to us," but adds he didn't enjoy listening to this kind of hard music until he joined Cumber Haze.

Aggressive hardcore band Cumber Haze, a seven-member band from Welland, put their heads together.
Photo by Amy Kaal

Atkinson says, "Normally people ask us to play because they find out we're a band and, after we play, they never want us again."

Cumber Haze says all their music is written together from band members' ideas.

Cumber Haze practices a few times a week but if they have a show coming up they get together more often.

"It is impossible for a band from Welland to make it big," says Atkinson. "Welland is the armpit of the world. I wish we were in L.A. (Los Angeles) where things would work out."

Gore Gasm, 'new style to heavy scene'

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

They've had no formal training, but damn they're good.

Closed up in a small windowless room of drummer John Rootes's apartment off Main Street in Niagara Falls, Gore Gasm jams out their tunes in an effort to bring perfection to their art.

Hearing their music for the first time, one might mistake it for some sort of satanic rite. The beat is fast — very fast — and the style of vocals a low growling almost demonic sound.

The room in which they practice is crammed with drums, amplifiers and mike stands, leaving little room for the four musicians. After an hour or so of jamming the heat from the amps and the four bodies is almost unbearable.

The music stops when one of them emerges from the room in a wave of heat to announce he broke another guitar string, an unfortunate hazard of this style of music, I am told.

Gore Gasm is a four-member fast punk/death metal band from Niagara Falls.

"It's a new style to the heavy scene," said Glenn Edgley, 21, the band's lead vocalist. He adds bringing something new to this style of music is what they wanted to do.

"I didn't want to be like every style of death metal," said Edgley describing the band's style. His lyrics have a rhyming repetitiveness about them, almost reminiscent of rap, but definitely not rap. This style is unique to the Niagara scene.

He said most death metal vocalists just growl, but he wanted to add some sort of beat to it.

Edgley said he wouldn't mind making music a career, but he'd like to get into the slower death metal grind as it's better than the faster heavier style.

The growling effect of the vocals is what characterizes the style of music, Edgley said.

Despite the style of vocals, the lyrics do carry a message. *Cyborg*, one of the band's tunes, is a message about the future. Other songs from the band include *Burn, Horror, Subliminal, Rotting* and *Undying*.

"There's nothing like playing heavy music," said Edgley.

Rootes, 21, said they get their influence from old-school punk bands such as Sepultura and the Dead Kennedys.

"A lot of our music's kind of punky though," Rootes said.

He said he started playing drums about six months ago. Before this, he played guitar.

When Rootes made the switch to drums, the band changed its name. They were formerly known as the Honky Tonk Hellcats. He said the band chose the name Gore Gasm after a friend thought of it one day at work.

Rootes and bass player Jimmy D have been playing together for quite a while. Rootes said they first played together, for seven years, in a band called Malickis Happy Corn Club.

Jimmy D has an unusual goal for a death metal bassist. He said he someday wants to play for an old-style country and western band, a revelation which draws

From left, Andrew Timperio, Jimmy D, Glenn Edgley and John Rootes are Gore Gasm, a four-member death metal band from Niagara Falls.

Photo by Sean Coffey

some strange looks from his fellow band members.

All four members, including Andrew Timperio, the band's guitarist, are self-taught musicians who have never taken a music lesson in their lives.

Hearing them, you would never know they haven't had formal training. This hasn't affected their ability to perform live either. Even at their jam sessions they have friends show up to watch them play.

"I love being on stage," said Timperio, 22.

Although he said he was nervous at first, and often started by singing with his back to the audience, Edgley said now he likes to see the crowd get into the music.

"The more we jam, the better we get," Edgley said, commenting on the band's progress in preparing for live performances.

As Gore Gasm, the band, hasn't played live yet, but Rootes said to watch for them at The Icon on Drummond Road in Niagara Falls as they plan to be playing there in the future.

The band is hoping to release a CD soon. So far, they've recorded a few tracks, said Edgley, but he adds they planned to go back into the studio after the March break to record a few more.

The band is not expecting to become famous. For the most part, they just do it as hobby, to have fun, although they seem to agree that fame wouldn't be a bad thing.

"I gave up wanting to be rich and famous years ago," said Rootes.

You can visit the band on the World Wide Web at http:/www.freeyellow.com/members6/deathgore/.

Combermere — who says bowling can't lead to success?

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

You never know whom you'll meet in a bowling alley. For Combermere it was the people they were going to make music with for the next three years.

Darryl Garner, 19, and Ryan Mattie, 19, played guitar together. Garner played the bass and Mattie played the electric guitar.

John Medhurst, 19, sang and played the guitar with drummer Corey Aplacer, who is 18.

Medhurst met Garner at a bowling alley and asked him to play with him.

The four of them formed the band Combermere.

Garner says the four of them "usually" get along well but "for the first year and a half Ryan and John used to get in fights."

Now three years later, they've played in bars, at parties, and in Battle of the Bands, which is where they won studio recording time and how they released their CD **Anywhere but here.**

They've sold about 300 copies of their CD which came out last December and was recorded throughout the summer in August.

They spent about $4,000 on getting it made. The first $1,500 came out of their pockets and the rest of the money they got from their parents, says Mattie.

The name **Anywhere but here** is "a metaphor." If they were anywhere else it would be a lot easier. "It's hard to get anything done out here," says Garner, the bassist and backup singer.

Most of the 11 songs on the CD are about "women," says Medhurst. Medhurst writes the lyrics, brings a rough idea of what the song will sound like and everyone writes the music, says Garner.

"It we were anywhere else we wouldn't be together because we all have different ideas." They all like different styles of music, says Medhurst.

Their music is alternative and "happy," says Garner.

They usually practice Thursday or Friday at Aplacer's place.

They "used to practice more," says Medhurst. "It's tough to get all four of us together."

Garner goes to McMaster University in Hamilton while the rest of the band live in this area. Mattie is attending Niagara College.

Combermere smashes their audience's eardrums at the London Arms pub in St. Catharines.

Photo by Sarah Storm

Their band is named after a town in Northern Ontario where there's a cottage they used to go to. Most people don't pronounce it correctly, says Medhurst.

Garner says they're planning to continue playing at bars and are going to do a few shows in Hamilton.

Music from our own backyards

Riding the Riff III

!Bang Elektronika keeps gettin bigger

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

Please sign on the dotted line.

Members of !Bang Elektronika, an industrial/elektronika band, have been compared to Cher's breasts: often shifting positions and always getting bigger.

The band started out in 1988 with only one man, Dave Rout looking to start an experimental music project.

In 1989 Rout, along with Kris Helstrom on drums, began looking for a vocalist but called up a friend, Andreas Gregor, to fill in until they found one.

"In the beginning it was sort of an accident," said Gregor. "Somehow I ended up sticking with it and it turned into something I had to keep doing. I just couldn't stop."

Their first release together was a six-song cassette, titled Aktivirung. After live shows and more time spent in the studio, !Bang released their first full-length CD, **Aktivirung, on Germany's Hyperium label.**

In 1996, because of some problems with financial arrangements !Bang was once again without a contract. After the band performed at the 1996 National Association of Campus and Community Radio Conference, Rout decided to leave the band.

Gregor and Helstrom put the project on hold and continued to perform as part of Digital Poodle, which they've been doing since 1991.

In November 1997, Gregor decided to once again try out !Bang, this time with a new backing band.

In 1998, Gregor was back in the studio with co-conspirators Paul Jaworski and Steven Blezy.

Blezy said he joined up with !B.E. "basically for fun."

He said he spent most of the time in the studio doing post-production work.

Gregor said he gets his "kicks" out of performing live. He said he enjoys studio work and writing, even though stress levels can be high.

Blezy said performing live is useful because the band tends to improvise a lot.

"It's a good test, watching the actual reaction of people involving us going off on a tangent."

Music itself means something different to each of them. Gregor takes music as a part of his life, something he "has to do." Blezy said he sees music as "dollar signs."

Blezy also writes soundtracks for products from video games to small independent film projects.

"I look at it as a business," he said. "I want to sell my music. It's a little less emotional for me."

Gregor said the sound of the band is not techno, or industrial or goth, but "there's elements of all three."

Blezy added that !Bang's live shows are done in German and so 99 per cent of the audience have no idea what they're singing about.

"It's something in the music that they're enjoying."

He said seeing people ignore the stereotype they're supposed to be following, going out, doing what they want and enjoying themselves and not really caring what anyone else is thinking, are what Blezy looks for during his shows.

As far as role models, Gregor said he looks to bands such as Jonovision, Kraftwerk and David Bowie.

"Bowie because he's able to take an underground style and mould it and make it popular."

Blezy said he agrees Bowie is "interesting. He always seems to be five years ahead of the industry."

He said he can appreciate everybody's talent. He said he believes all musicians have "their own distinction" that makes them unique.

"I like to listen to music and try to find that distinction and then appreciate them from there."

As far as practice goes, Blezy said !Bang usually gets together the night before a show.

He said it's because the members all have so many solo projects on the side so they are "technically always playing music."

When it comes time for a show, he said, they get together, decide what songs to play, what order, and what basic feel for the show they are want. They then run through the songs once or twice.

"We all play very well together. We're very very lucky."

Gregor said it's because "we all know each other very well and we're such good friends."

!Bang Elektronika plays about once a month or every two months.

Gregor said they've been "taking it easy lately" because they're concentrating on getting the new demo done and out to the college stations and get "the press happening."

He said there is no point in playing live when you haven't had anything out in a while.

The band puts in almost 28 hours on post production for each song, finishing their day at about 3 a.m.

Gregor said he hopes to send the finished demo out to American labels and hopes it will get signed.

He said that would free their time to write more and play more live shows.

"This is sort of the make it or break it. If this album doesn't come out it'll probably be the end for !Bang Elektronika."

Gregor said he's been doing bands for 15 years and has seen the band already go places, as well has his other band, Digital Poodle.

He said with Digital Poodle he had already "been there and done that." If !Bang is unable to get to that point quickly, he said he may lose his motivation.

He said he doesn't like explaining meaning behind his songs because he enjoys listening to a band and putting in his own interpretation.

"All I'll say about it is that it's about a rough time in my life."

Blezy said, "It's not about a song saying 'okay, this happened to me last March.' It's about the concept of what's going on."

!Bang hopes to have the four-song CD finished in about two months.

Gregor said the release of the CD depends on one thing.

"Basically it'll come out when somebody signs the contract."

!Bang Elektronica, including members Andreas Gregor (left), and Steven Blezy are scheduled to play on April 8, at the Hideway in St. Catharines.

Photo by Deborah Richardson

Battle of the Bands
Wednesday, April 7th
After Hours Pub at the Welland Campus

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Riding the Riff III

Fuzz Bug 'just trying to have fun'

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

The boys just wanna' have fun.

Fuzz Bug, a Welland-based teenage band, formed their four-member group from a friendship which has lasted since grade school.

Kelly Jones, 20, of Welland, the group's bass player and lead vocalist, said the band has been playing for two years and started on Dec. 12, 1996, with some boys living in the same neighborhood.

The group used to be called Grunge Cats, but Billy Jopolinsky, 16, the band's drummer, said the name was "kind of annoying."

Steve D'Orazio, 18, of Welland, said he came up with Fuzz Bug from a Puff Daddy video he watched.

The band on the video is called Fuzz Bubble and D'Orazio thought of Fuzz Bug and passed it by the band.

D'Orazio, Jopolinsky, and Anthony Brailey are students at Notre Dame High School in Welland.

D'Orazio said he hopes to come to Niagara College next year and enrol in either the Journalism-Print program or the Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film program.

Jopolinsky still has a few more years at Notre Dame and Brailey, 18, the band's guitarist, hopes to attend Brock University in the fall.

Jones is at Niagara College as a first-year Recreation and Leisure Services program student at the Welland campus.

Members of Fuzzbug are looking forward to their future performance at Battle of the Bands on April 7 at After Hours.

Photo by Deborah Richardson

Although the members of Fuzz Bug are looking to go their own ways, Jones said he hopes "it (the band) lasts a long time."

Fuzz Bug practices three hours a day in D'Orazio's basement.

Jones said the fuel for the practice is usually some Sunny Delight.

"We drink (and) then we're back up writing better songs."

Brailey said when the band breaks, they usually say, "Let's go eat and come back," but Jopolinsky said once the band eats "we never come back."

Besides Sunny Delight the band eats McDonald's for their pre-show ritual.

Fuzz Bug plays about once a month. The last place they played was the Mind Bomb in St. Catharines, the band's second performance and "biggest accomplishment," said Jones.

He said it's difficult to get bars to agree to have the band play there without any pre-recorded material.

"We've never had any recorded stuff so we can say to a bar owner, 'Here, enjoy.'"

Jones said the band's long-term goal is to play one show in Toronto and then "we can all die."

Jopolinsky said the band's sound is not about an expression of art, but rather it's all about "just having fun."

"I want other people to have fun. Because we're not heavy, we're not death, not trying to kill people, we try to have fun."

"We're kids in the basement," Jones said.

He said the Fuzz Bug's sound is "kind of grunge but not scary like Nirvana."

Jopolinsky said most bands in Welland are "heavy and looking to scare people."

D'Orazio said Fuzz Bug is "out of" what's going on in Welland and on the radio.

"We're not jazz or heavy. We're the only band that's in the middle."

Jones said Fuzz Bug would fit on radio stations such as 102.1, Brock Radio or maybe even 97.7.

The band has signed up for Battle of the Bands at Niagara College to test out their sound.

Their plans include writing a theme song for a new show coming to Cogeco. The name of the show is unknown but the song they plan to use is called *Pizza's Delivered.*

The band just released their first CD **What's Up Bolio**. Jones said he's "all right with it" but thinks it could have been done better.

D'Orazio said Jones' voice and the rest of the band sound too separated.

"His voice is so loud," he said.

Fuzz Bug is using Ziploc baggies instead of the expensive wrap for their CDs because Jones works part time at Commisso's and can supply their listeners with the "freshest CDs in the biz," he said.

It cost the band just over $400 to make 60 CDs but they are hopeful they will make it all back in sales.

"That CD right there is not to make money," Jones said. "It's to say, when I grow up and have a mortgage, I can say I rocked for a little bit of my life."

Upright Primates came together through fate

By LISA HEYDON
Staff Writer

It was fate that brought members of Upright Primates together, but it took more than fate to produce one of the most unique styles of alternative folk rock in the Niagara Region.

Upright Primates formed in 1995 by chance. Bassist Tom Lepp and lead guitarist Tony Bruch met in their early teens in St. Catharines.

The pair soon hooked up with lead vocalist and acoustic guitar player Carolyn LePage, who worked with Lepp. Lepage originally joined the band as a back-up vocalist, but was instantly moved to lead vocals after impressing the band with her voice.

Being a female in a band of males has turned out to be a positive experience, says LePage. "It's wonderful . . . there are not a lot of female singers in this region, but people like it in this area." She was then followed by drummer Andrew Gordon.

Later came Moe Mackanyn, rhythm guitar and back-up vocalist. Mackanyn joined the band in 1997 after offering studio space for the foursome to practice. Not long after the band became five. Gordon left the band in early January, just after Upright Primates' release of their first CD, **Clearly Unclear.**

Fate brought Upright Primates together to sing unique alternative folk rock.

The band had been working on **Clearly Unclear** for a year before its release. The unique sound produced on the album is a product of four distinct songwriters. LePage says the band members write individually.

"Everyone puts a piece of themselves into it and it ends up in the finished product." Each track brings a new surprise. The album is "everything from funk to folk," says Lepp.

The CD took three days to record at Prodigy studios on Bunting Road in St. Catharines. The album was released with the help of producer and engineer Corey MacFadyen, and Rob Deacon in late December. A CD release party was held on New Year's Eve at the Lion's Tavern in Port Dalhousie, a familiar venue for the band.

Being in a band has brought unexpected opportunities. Upright Primates has had the privilege of "playing everywhere from here (St. Catharines) to Fort Erie," says LePage. The next big move for the band is to find a drummer. Upright Primates will be performing on May 7 at the Lion's Tavern.

Riding the Riff

Sick Boys, energetic, full of laughs

Sick Boys pause for a moment of reflection.

Submitted photograph

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

In the dimly lit booth at the Mind Bomb, located at 12 King St., in St. Catharines, the Sick Boys were full of energy and laughs.

Cigarettes in hand and beers on the table, they were eager to answer just about anything.

The band wanted to skip the background and bio stuff.

"We hear those questions all the time, and are sick of answering them," said Georgie Boy, 24, of Thorold, who plays bass.

The rest of the band consists of Steve Stumble, 24, vocals, Jeff Pyro, 24, drummer, and Paul Drynkital, 24, guitar, all of St. Catharines.

The four members are the original band members and have been together for six years.

"We've played all over Ontario, parts of the United States and out east," said Stumble.

Their music is about a lot of things.

Drynkital said it comes from "life experiences."

Boy added it could be anything from something joyous to something miserable that inspires them to write the songs.

"Everyone works together on writing the lyrics," said Drynkital, adding, "you bring something in and over the months it gets changed. I get pissed when I write the lyrics and it's not played the way it's supposed to be."

Boy said they usually write when they're at their highest or lowest, "when our emotions are at their peak."

A creative way of coming up with songs is a method Boy claims he uses.

Laughing, he says he sits on his head thinking of songs.

The Sick Boys have a wide spectrum of musicians they personally like.

According to the Sick Boys, The Clash is the perfect "slumber party" music.

Boy smiled, saying, "It's good when we're sitting around doing each other's hair."

In addition to The Clash, they like anything from Teenage Head to Stray Cats to Elvis Presley, although, in Drynkital's eyes, "Andy Stewart is the cat's meow."

They also like listening to everything played on Dragstrip Riot, which is Brock University's radio, CFBU.

The '50s were known for its oldies music, the '60s for its wild times, but for the Sick Boys it's just two more decades they can incorporate into their music.

"(We) play rock 'n rolly music, with music from '50s, '60s and elements from all other decades," said Drynkital.

Boy described the band as "a circus without the animals, tents . . ." while Drynkital quickly added "without a safety net."

The Sick Boys have been playing together since they were 18, but still had to think about how they formed a band.

As they sat talking back and forth about how that happened, Stumble said, "Jeff had drums at my house and we went to Paul's."

He said they were all interested in playing in a band, and they needed a bassist, so they got George, who knew Paul.

Wow, after they got that figured out, it only took them only a second to recall the best concert they ever played.

One of them blurted out, "The show at Sneaky Dee's in Toronto."

Boy said, "It blew everyone away."

There, they opened for Cadillac Tramps with the Devil Dogs in 1994.

Drynkital said it was his favourite because "it's the best I played personally."

"With about 500 people" in attendance, Boy added, "the floor was caving in on the fourth sold-out night."

Pyro said, "The speakers were moving inward and everything downstairs was shaking."

The Sick Boys have made a name for themselves, allowing them to earn a spot on the Vans Warped Tour in Buffalo, N.Y., for one day in 1997.

Stumble said, "We open for bands we thought were cool." Pyro added the best part of opening for a band is "free beer after."

Doing as many shows as they have, they said they don't get nervous. In fact, Drynkital said, he "enjoys the attention."

The only time Drynkital said he was "feeling tense" was when they opened for Rancid, but Pyro said he was just feeling the "pressure."

The Sick Boys attract crowds between the ages of 18 to 30.

"The crowd used to be older than us, but now it's younger," said Boy.

This high-energy band "practices once a week in a basement, but not a house basement," said Stumble.

The Sick Boys have released two CDs. The first, **Wrecked'em? Damn Near Killed'em!**, sold over 5,000 copies. Their second, **Put Your Weight On It!**, has on it the single *Everyone Needs*, for which recently they shot a video.

The Sick Boys share their life experiences with their lyrics and are ready to rock the world with their music.

When asked what their favourite song they recorded was, Boy said, "It had to be *Everyone Needs*. It's our crowning achievement." Drynkital said, when he's playing, he likes *When The Kids Are Rocking*, the "best."

On March 20, the Sick Boys will put on their sixth anniversary show at Malibu Jack's Hideaway, in St. Catharines.

After that, Boy said they are fairly busy over the spring and summer "with concerts and tours," one of which will be with The Real Mackenzies.

Stumble said, "We have five shows in March, (but we) could have more. When we're not in a lull we usually play a lot."

Their bad-boy image must have been left at the door because the Sick Boys created an inviting atmosphere, which could leave anyone feeling like you'd known them for years.

With such an unusual name for a band, the Sick Boys were unable to say how they came up with it, except to say "it was creative."

Jokes were cracked all night, mainly by Boy, who felt the urge to add one in wherever he could.

Drynkital said it was OK. "We give everyone a hard time."

As their glasses were emptying, Drynkital said it was all right to be more personal.

So when the inevitable question of whether they were single came up, Boy covered this one by saying "some of us are, some of us aren't."

So all you single ladies who think the Sick Boys are fine will have to figure out which ones are single on your own.

Besides playing in the band they all have other jobs. Boy, Drynkital and Stumble work at the Mind Bomb, and Pyro works as a security guard at a hospital.

The Sick Boys are on their way to success and anyone who has heard them play, or has spent time talking with them knows it.

DISCOGRAPHY

- **On The Road To NYC** — Compilation CD 1994
- **PUNK: The Next Generation** — Compilation CD 1995
- **S.C.E.N.E.** '95 — Compilation CD 1995
- **Wrecked'em? Damn Near Killed'em!** — CD 1995
- **Wreck The Halls** — Christmas compilation cassette 1996
- **S.C.E.N.E.** '96 — Compilation CD 1996
- **Radio Nine** — Compilation cassette 1997
- Two Man Congo Line — 12-inch EP 1997
- **S.C.E.N.E.** '97 — Compilation CD 1997
- Don't Pogo In The Livingroom — Compilation CD 1998
- **S.C.E.N.E.** '98 — Compilation CD 1998
- Put Your Weight On It — CD 1998
- **Everyone Needs** — Video 1998

The Night Shift Blues Band

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Bullet from a Gun fired hot tunes into the realm of blues, and the group that pulled the trigger is at the firing range again.

Bassist Jerry Salfi, guitarist George Tirpko and drummer Gary Storin are the multi-talented members of The Nightshift Blues Band. Each member contributes his own vocal talents to the album.

Their debut CD, **Bullet from a Gun**, receives air time in Ottawa, Windsor, Kingston, Vancouver and Winnipeg, as well as on stations in Australia and the Czech Republic.

Recording for their next CD began in January at Groundloop Studios, Niagara Falls, Ont.

In **Natural Man**, the working title for the album, Tirpko, 48, of Pelham, said they stay "true to the roots of blues and R&B (rhythm and blues)."

"Unlike many bands, we can reproduce the whole CD live. The first CD is pretty derivative of what we are as a group."

Influenced by Stevie Ray Vaughn, Marvin Gaye and, recently some bands such as Chris Duarte, and Johnny Winter, their entourage "pushes the bounds of blues" without forgetting where it originated.

"Blues is such a broad term. You've got acoustic blues, old style blues, new style, slide, accessory, R&B, happy blues, sad blues," said Tirpko. The Nightshift Blues Band just tries to "keep the fun component up."

Yet, they aren't restricted by location. In addition to playing in the studio they play in small clubs and at festivals.

"Every venue has its joys and you have to be happy putting your foot on the stage, wherever it is," said Storin, 47, of St. Catharines.

For the past two years the trio has enjoyed stepping onto stages from Ellicottville, N.Y., to Don Mills, Ont.

Recording is advantageous to stage performances because "it tightens you up for your live show, makes you more aware of what you do on stage," said Storin.

Salfi, 49, of Niagara Falls, describes the dynamics of the group saying, "When the band is playing and we find a pocket, or get in the groove, it just starts feeling like there is more than three people up there."

"On stage there's over 115 years experience, so our line is pretty much covered as far as stage presence is concerned," said Storin.

Tirpko compared being a musician to being an artist, noting all three band members have had to teach music lessons or have other jobs or careers on the side in order to "keep body and soul together."

Nevertheless, he said it's in playing the blues that they receive spiritual satisfaction.

"I like turning around and seeing Gary's face," said Salfi. "Just the joy of making music. The blues gives us the opportunity to be able to expand as musicians."

Fans can look forward to seeing the band's CD release this spring as well as watching for them at the three-day Niagara Falls Blues Festival in September.

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Riding the Riff III

From Indie Band to Success

The Philosopher Kings

By CHRISTINE MORGAN
Staff Writer

They fascinate listeners with their music and style, and they are considered to be seductive.

Perhaps this Canadian group has more to it than meets the eye.

The Philosopher Kings offer strong, soulful, sensual sounds on their second album, **Famous, Rich and Beautiful**, and manage to still keep a polished backdrop.

On this record, "we know who we are," says front man, Gerald Eaton.

In contrast to their first record released in 1994, which happened very quickly, **Famous Rich and Beautiful** was more inert.

"We took a more lazy approach to writing and even recording," says Eaton, adding this new album is "a lot more colourful."

The grown-up sounds have earned the quintet three 1999 Juno Award nominations, including Best Group, Best Pop Album for **Famous, Rich and Beautiful** and Best Single, *Hurts to Love You.*

"This is a more in-your-face, over-the-top album," says Eaton.

During the first two years the band overcame rough times, but it's smooth sailing now, says Eaton.

The nominations validate that, he says.

It's also inspiring to have that success, adding it's "the driving force" behind the band.

Some of that success has been earned solely because of his attire. Eaton says if he hadn't worn the dress, those people wouldn't know the band.

He also says the Kings' fans think it's a stunt or fun idea, just a "twist on the lyrics."

Furthermore, "women get it," he says. The whole idea of the dress and the song is creative and most people get the irony.

Eaton's advice to bands starting out is to stick to their vision.

Eaton says they're taking live shows to another level and are working on a live album possibly taken from this coming tour, which began in the middle of March.

The Philosopher Kings record on the Columbia label.

Photo by Matt Gunther

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